

Yemeni leaders to meet soon

ABU DHABI (AP) — North Yemen President Ali Abdullah Saleh will meet soon with South Yemeni leaders for the first time since Aden's civil war in January 1986, a newspaper reported Sunday. The United Arab Emirates newspaper Al Itihad said Mr. Saleh would meet either in Sanaa or Aden with Ali Salim al-Bekki, secretary-general of the ruling Yemeni Socialist Party. Mr. Bekki was a leading member of the party faction that won the 12-day civil war, which ended with the ouster of President Ali Nasser Muhammad and his replacement by Hakeem Abu Baker al-Atas. The UAE, Kuwait and other countries on the Arabian Peninsula had been sponsoring a drive for unity between the two Yemens during the rule of Mr. Nasser Muhammad. The mediation bids were renewed in wake of a regional tour by Mr. Atas. Leaders in the two Yemens have pledged to continue the drive for unity but this has been impeded by the presence of the ousted president and up to 40,000 of his followers in North Yemen, where they sought refuge. In Aden, the state-run radio reported meanwhile that Mr. Bekki received a message from Mr. Saleh in reply to one he sent to the North Yemeni president.

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Israelis hold 5 Arabs without charge

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (R) — Israeli military authorities said Sunday they arrested five Palestinians from the occupied West Bank overnight and will hold them for six months without charge for alleged anti-Israel activities. The five Arabs from the Dheisheh refugee camp near Bethlehem were seized under a law dating from British-mandated Palestine allowing authorities to detain residents suspected of hostile activities for up to six months without trial. About 60 Palestinians in the West Bank and Gaza Strip are currently held in "administrative detention" by Israeli military authorities. The five were identified by the Israeli army as Akram Shuaib Muhammad al-Aisali, Assad Mahmud Ali'an Abu Laban, Mahmud Khamuda Ahmad Yusef Arafah, Jamil Ibrahim Mukhsin Faris and Ra'id Lutfi Muhammad Khamur.

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PLO claims 2 bomb attacks

TUNIS (AP) — The Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) claimed responsibility Sunday for two bomb attacks it said it carried out at Kalkalya and Gaza in the occupied territories, wounding at least three Israeli soldiers. According to the Palestinian news agency Wafa the Samir Toukan group set off an incendiary bomb Saturday against a military bus traveling in Kalkalya, injuring three soldiers. In Gaza, Wafa said, the Halim group bombed and destroyed a parked military vehicle. In another dispatch the agency reported on popular demonstrations in Gaza and the West Bank to protest "the iron hand of Israeli terrorism" against the Palestinian people.

Iraq produces thousands of mortars

BAGHDAD (R) — President Saddam Hussein said Iraq produced more than four thousand mortars of different sizes in less than a month. He told members of the ruling Baath Party Sunday night: "A few months ago the defence ministry ordered the military manufacturing body to produce 4,000 mortars to cover its needs for 1987-88, but the officer in charge told me they manufactured 4,668 mortars in 25 days." He added that it also manufactured an armoured personnel carrier with a 120-mm mortar in 19 days.

India gets MiG-29s

NEW DELHI (AP) — The Soviet Union has delivered two squadrons of MiG-29 fighter jets to India several months ahead of schedule, the United News of India (UNI) reported Sunday. India is the first foreign country to get the sophisticated fighters, which are seen here as a counter to the U.S.-made F-16 jets in neighbouring Pakistan's air force. MiG squadrons are generally 18 to 20 jets strong. UNI did not say if the new fighters are equipped with air-to-air missiles.

Singh not to try to oust Gandhi

NEW DELHI (R) — Indian President Zail Singh said Sunday he had no intention of dismissing Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi as a result of their constitutional wrangle. A presidential palace statement said Mr. Singh was distressed by press reports that he might dismiss Mr. Gandhi, who he has accused of not briefing him on important issues. Indian newspapers have speculated that Mr. Singh, whose five-year term expires on July 24, might threaten to oust Mr. Gandhi as a bargaining ploy to gain himself a second term.

Huge explosives cache found in Ulster

BELFAST (R) — A major bombing campaign by the outlawed Irish Republican Army (IRA) may have been foiled by the discovery of nearly 1,300 kilograms of explosives inside a horsebox, Northern Ireland police sources said Sunday. Police said the consignment was found and a man arrested when the horsebox was stopped Saturday night at a checkpoint in the north of the British-ruled province. The IRA is fighting to end British rule over Northern Ireland.

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Prime minister rejects as untrue reports of contacts and agreements with Israel on peace conference

Peaceful settlement can only be reached through such a conference • It is futile to proceed while Israel still refuses principle of convening it • PLO should be invited

AMMAN (Petra) — Prime Minister Zaid Rifai on Sunday denied reports of contacts and agreements with Israel over the proposed international conference on the Middle East and reaffirmed that Jordan's position with regard to the conference remained basically unchanged.

In a statement to Petra, Mr. Rifai said Jordan's position remained that all participants in the conference should agree to the principle that the aim of the meeting is achieving a peaceful settlement to the Arab-Israeli conflict on the basis of United Nations Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338 and finding a solution to the Palestine problem in all its aspects and addressing the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people.

The participants, added the prime minister, "should also renounce violence and terrorism."

Mr. Rifai said Jordan insists on inviting the PLO to the conference and that the world was now awaiting Israel's agreement on convening the conference on the framework and basis as outlined by Jordan. In the absence of an Israeli agreement, said the prime minister, it is futile to proceed with preparations for the conference.

Following is the full text of the prime minister's statement: His Majesty King Hussein is known to have exerted intensive efforts in the past two years in order to gain the approval and

support of the five permanent members of the United Nations Security Council for convening an international peace conference on the Middle East to be called by the U.N. secretary general and attended by all parties concerned including the PLO and the five permanent members of the Security Council.

The result of these efforts was agreement among the countries concerned on the need to hold the conference after it had become clear to them that a peaceful settlement can only be reached through an international peace conference.

Participants in the conference should agree to its convening with the aim of achieving a peaceful settlement to the Arab-Israeli conflict on the basis of Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338 and finding a solution to the Palestine problem in all its aspects and addressing to the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people.

All participants should also renounce violence and terrorism.

As it has also been known, Jordan insists on inviting the PLO to participate in the conference and Jordan had acted to enable the organisation to take part in the conference within a Jordanian-Palestinian delegation in accordance with the Feb. 11 accord.

Recent reports about agreements and contacts over the proposed conference are untrue.

In fact, the world is still awaiting the agreement of the Israeli government on holding the conference and on Israel's participation in it on these previously mentioned basis as an essential step towards its convening.

Otherwise, it is futile to proceed with preparations for holding the conference while the Israeli government still refuses the principle of holding it and participating in its deliberations should it convene.

Hassan and Benjedid reportedly plan border summit with Fahd

RABAT (Agencies) — A summit meeting between Morocco's King Hassan II, President Chadli Benjedid of Algeria and King Fahd of Saudi Arabia is imminent, Moroccan officials and Arab and Western diplomats reported Sunday.

The sources, quoted by AP, would not provide further details on the meeting, except to say that it would probably take place within 48 hours at the village of Akid Lofri on the Moroccan-Algerian border.

In Algiers, the government would neither confirm nor deny the report. The Moroccan monarch and the Algerian president met previously in 1983, also in Akid Lofri, in a vain attempt to settle the dispute over the former Spanish Sahara where an Algerian-sponsored independence movement, the Polisario front, is fighting from bases in Algeria against the Moroccan annexation of the territory.

King Fahd has been playing a major backstage role to try and

reconcile the two neighbours which have had no diplomatic relations since 1975 because of the Sahara dispute.

The diplomatic sources said French President Francois Mitterrand, who visited President Benjedid in Algiers in March and then conferred with King Hassan in Rabat in April, may also have played a leading role in efforts to end the dispute.

The recent construction by Morocco of the final section of its 2,400-kilometre long defensive wall of rock and sand in the Sahara may have prompted President Benjedid to seek a new meeting with the Moroccan monarch in defiance of hardliners in the Algerian government who have said openly for years that any settlement of the dispute must be directly between Morocco and the Polisario.

According to sources quoted by Reuters the planned meeting would involve King Hassan and President Benjedid.

The main hotels in Oujda, northeastern Morocco, contacted

by telephone from Rabat, said they had been requisitioned, but gave no reason, Reuters said Sunday.

There was no official confirmation in Rabat either that a meeting was scheduled.

The 1993 meeting resulted in reopening border and air links between Algeria and Morocco. But the two leaders failed to make headway on Western Sahara and, although they agreed in principle to restore diplomatic ties, this has not happened yet.

King Fahd visited both Algeria and Morocco a few weeks ago. Since then, recriminations in the Algerian and Moroccan official media have subsided.

One of King Hassan's political advisers, Ahmad Bensouda, was received by President Benjedid in Algiers last month.

The encounter followed an incident during a meeting of the Palestine National Council when the Moroccan delegation walked out in protest against the presence of Polisario leader Mohammed Abdul Aziz.

Soviets pressing Iran and Iraq to negotiate peace

ABU DHABI (AP) — Moscow is trying to persuade warring Iran and Iraq to negotiate soon, the Soviet ambassador at the United Nations was quoted Sunday as saying.

"I believe time has come to end the Iran-Iraq war," Alexandre Belonogov told the United Arab Emirates newspaper Al Itihad.

"My country is using its influence positively with the two parties to convince them to sit at the negotiating table at the earliest," Mr. Belonogov said.

He said Moscow was also exerting efforts to reduce tension in the region "because it is in our interest that peace be brought about due to the region's proximity to our borders."

Mr. Belonogov said his country would support holding a meeting of the foreign ministers of Security Council member states to discuss a settlement to the 6½-year-old conflict.

The Soviet Union has close ties with Iraq and is its main arms supplier. Iranian officials have been invited to Moscow in recent months to help normalise ties, which had been strained since the Islamic revolution and a crackdown on Iranian communists.

Mr. Belonogov, who has served in the post as his country's ambassador to Egypt for two years, strongly denied reports Moscow was resuming diplomatic ties with Israel, ruptured after Israel's occupation of Arab territories in June 1967.

Instead, he predicted a breakthrough in the Kremlin's relations with Egypt. Mr. Belonogov was the first Kremlin ambassador to Cairo in 1984 after a 10-year chill following President Anwar Sadat's expulsion of 17,000 Soviet military experts.

A Kuwaiti newspaper reported on Sunday that France had followed the Soviet Union's example by offering to rent tankers to Kuwait in an effort to prevent Iranian attacks in the Gulf.

Al Rai Al Aam reported the French move but gave no sources and no further details. The French offer apparently was made in response to a Kuwaiti request to all five permanent members of the Security Council to help protect shipping to and from Kuwait.



KING VISITS PRIME MINISTRY: His Majesty King Hussein, accompanied by Court Minister Adnan Abu Odah (second from left) and Armed Forces Commander-in-Chief General Sharif

Zaid, visits the Prime Ministry on Sunday. During the visit the King conferred with Prime Minister Zaid Rifai (left) and issued some directives (Petra photo)

Arafat describes differences with Arab states as simple

PLO leader says no Syrian ban on Habash or Hawatmeh and rejects reported strain with Libya

KUWAIT (Agencies) — Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Leader Yasser Arafat on Sunday played down strains in PLO ties with several Arab countries, saying his own pro-Egyptian tendencies would not change.

"As you know, I'm of Egyptian leaning... and I do not get affected by one decision or another," Mr. Arafat, who was born in Cairo, told reporters after arriving in Kuwait from Baghdad.

"What has taken place will not change my position... which is a position known by all."

Palestinian sources said Mr. Arafat, who was received by the emir, Sheikh Jaber Al Ahmad Al Sabah, was starting a tour to brief Gulf leaders on last month's meeting of the Palestine National Council (PNC).

Mr. Arafat said the ruptures in Arab relations caused by the PNC gathering were "simple differences." The PNC attacked Egypt for its 1979 peace treaty with Israel, scrapped the Feb. 11, 1985 accord with Jordan on joint Middle East

peace efforts and received a member of the Polisario guerrilla force fighting Morocco for independence in the Western Sahara. Egypt responded by closing PLO offices in Cairo and Morocco said it would boycott PLO events.

Deputy PLO military commander Khalil Al Wazir told a United Arab Emirates daily on Saturday that the PLO's new executive committee would meet on May 10 in Tunis to discuss relations with Egypt, Jordan and Morocco.

Mr. Arafat is sending his political adviser Hani Al Hassan to Egypt to explain the PLO's stand towards Egypt, AP reported.

Mr. Arafat denied that the director of the PLO office in Libya had been expelled after reports Libyan leader Muammar Qadhafi was angry because he refused to break all links with Egypt. "This is completely untrue," he said.

Mr. Arafat, long at odds with Syrian President Hafez Al Assad who backed radical Palestinian factions, said the PNC resolved "to turn a new page with our

brothers in Syria" by reunifying its ranks.

Hope for summit

He said it sought to participate positively in efforts to reach "a unified Arab stance that preserves our Arab Nation and consolidates its confrontation of the challenges that are imposed on us."

He also voiced hope that a long-delayed Arab summit could be convened as soon as possible, a sentiment expressed last week by Kuwaiti Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Al Ahmad Al Sabah.

In remarks quoted by Radio Monte Carlo last Thursday and monitored by the Kuwait News Agency (KUNA), the minister said a summit was imperative.

KUNA reported: "Sheikh Sabah said holding the summit was necessary... particularly in view of the recent crack in the Arab fold which appeared in the wake of (the) Palestine National Council's session in Algiers."

(Continued on page 3)

'Ain Al Hilweh honours Israeli air raid victims

SIDON, Lebanon (R) — Black flags hung from every balcony in 'Ain Al Hilweh refugee camp on Sunday as thousands of Palestinians honoured the 13 people killed in Israel's latest air raid on South Lebanon, witnesses said.

Officers from Fateh, the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine (DFLP) and the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP) were on hand to show the new-found unity of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO).

When coffins of six of the victims emerged after a funeral ceremony in a mosque, Palestinians manning 15 truck-mounted anti-aircraft guns fired a 21-gun salute.

Women and children sobbed as an estimated 8,000 mourners marched to a cemetery at nearby Darb As Sim village.

Eighteen people including two children were killed when Israeli jets attacked the Palestinian camp of Mieh Mieh southeast of Sidon on Friday in their bloodiest raid on Lebanon this year.

Eight of the victims were buried Saturday in a similar mass funeral in 'Ain Al Hilweh attended by some 3,000 refugees.

The pace of Israeli attacks on Palestinian targets east of Sidon quickened after a PLO squad crossed into Israel on April 19, killing two Israeli soldiers before the three guerrillas were themselves killed.

"Let it be known that we will continue our fight against our enemy Israel. The blood of these victims will not go to waste," a Palestinian official shouted to the crowd.

Over the deafening sirens of ambulances carrying the coffins draped in Palestinian flags, people chanted songs with lines like: "I am coming, my enemy, I am coming from every alley and street."

Some 80,000 Palestinians now

live in and around 'Ain Al Hilweh, where the population doubled after other camps in Beirut and South Lebanon came under siege by the Shi'ite Amal militia last year.

The last Amal food blockades of two camps in west Beirut ended a month ago with the intervention of Syrian troops.

SLA man killed

Resistance fighters said Sunday they exploded a roadside bomb in South Lebanon, killing a member of the Israeli-backed South Lebanon Army (SLA) militia.

The SLA's Voice of Hope radio station said the bomb killed the militiaman and wounded three more early Sunday near Kfar Fallous, 10 kilometres east of Sidon.

Lebanon's "Islamic Resistance" said in a statement that six SLA men were killed or wounded when the bomb was set off as the SLA drove by on patrol.

Israeli helicopters rescued the casualties, it added.

The SLA and about 1,000 Israeli troops control a self-declared "security zone," a belt of Lebanese territory north of the Israeli border roughly 10 kilometres wide.

The SLA also controls the Kfar Fallous-Jezzine panhandle reaching 30 kilometres north of the Israeli border up Lebanon's mountain backbone into foothills east of Sidon.

Guerrillas have recently stepped up their attacks against the "security zone" but it was the first attack on the SLA east of Sidon for several months.

The Islamic Resistance is a coalition of pro-Iranian guerrillas, mostly Shi'ites. Israeli warplanes last week dropped leaflets warning the majority Shi'ite population of "iron fist" retaliation if attacks continued.

Karmal reportedly in prison

PEKING (AP) — Former Afghan leader Babrak Karmal has been arrested in Afghanistan and is in prison, China's government-run Xinhua news agency reported Sunday.

The agency quoted diplomatic sources in Islamabad, Pakistan as saying that Mr. Karmal was sent to Pul-e-Charkhai jail in the Afghan capital of Kabul.

Xinhua said the order to arrest Mr. Karmal, the former Afghan president and secretary-general of the People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan, came from ruling revolutionary council of Afghanistan.

Mr. Karmal, 58, headed the council during the nearly seven years he was in power.

Xinhua said the reason for Mr. Karmal's arrest was not known. The diplomatic sources were not identified.

In Moscow, an official with the Afghan embassy was asked about the report.

Speaking on condition of anonymity, he replied: "I haven't heard about that. As far as I know, I think it's not correct."

The official said the Xinhua report might be "propaganda from imperialists."

China has aided guerrillas who are battling Afghan government troops and an estimated 115,000 Soviet soldiers in Afghanistan.

Officials in Afghanistan, an leaders of the Afghan guerrilla groups operating from bases in Pakistan, could not immediately be reached for comment.

Monitors of Radio Kabul, the official Afghan radio, did not report hearing any announcement that might indicate Mr. Karmal was imprisoned.

Xinhua said Mr. Karmal had been under house arrest "for some time."

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Better future for all

BESIDES reaffirming that there have been no contacts made or agreements reached with Israel on the question of the proposed international conference, the prime minister's statement yesterday made Jordan's position very clear on two essential points. The first is that Jordan remains committed to convening a U.N.-sponsored conference as the only way to reach a peaceful settlement to the Palestinian problem. And, the second is that there is no point in discussing the matter any further until and unless Israel first accepts the idea of a conference whose convocation is governed by the set of principles that are contained in Mr. Rifai's statement.

These principles, which, except for Israel and the U.S., have been universally endorsed and internationally sanctioned, are not only simple to understand and easy to accept by all parties if there is genuine desire to find a solution based on compromise and reason; they are also central to any effort aimed at making progress towards peace in the area. For, who can deny the PLO its right to represent the Palestinians, especially when it is no less than the future of this people that is at stake? And who can deny that a U.N.-sponsored forum, attended by the five big powers and all parties to the conflict, is the best place to implement the universally acclaimed resolutions, 242 and 338? Further, it is not only correct and proper to assume that the proposed U.N.-sponsored negotiations, in order to be useful and productive, have to be conducted in an atmosphere free of violence and terrorism, by any side or party, against the other?

The prime minister's statement makes abundantly clear what Jordan wants and expects from all the parties concerned, in order to continue with its intensive, untiring efforts to reach an honourable settlement to the Palestinian problem. If, for their own reasons, these parties cannot see wisdom in these words, or cannot bring themselves to accept what true peace would require of them, then Jordan, at least, will have done its best to avert bloodshed and perpetual conflict in this part of the world.

We hope that Jordan's latest reaffirmation of its position will serve not only as a reminder to everybody of their duty to work for peace, but also as a driving force to take a step forward and to build on this step for a better future for all.

ARABIC PRESS EDITORIALS

Al Ra'i: Time for unified Arab stand

AS efforts continue for holding an international Middle East peace conference we feel that it is more important now than at any time in the past to bring about a unified Arab stand capable of defining and implementing Arab hopes and aspirations when the conference is held. Needless to say that the Arabs must hold on to their demands for an Israeli withdrawal from occupied Arab lands in implementation of the U.N. Security Council resolutions, a position which is backed by the European countries and the rest of the world with the exception of Israel and the United States which oppose such ideas. Crystallising a unified Arab stand is of the utmost importance at the moment, and Arab leaders should meet now to chart a concerted policy and strategy for the aspired conference. There is no real justification for postponing an Arab summit meeting and such an important issue should not be left without settlement indefinitely. Events are happening fast and the danger of the common enemy increases in intensity every day, and this is enough to prompt the Arab leaders to meet and discuss a unified stand. Arab leaders are responsible for their nation and should shoulder their task regardless of side differences and the present circumstances. The subject of an international conference is of paramount importance for the Arabs because it is hoped that it will help them regain their land and their rights, and also establish peace that has eluded the Middle East for so long.

Al Dustour: Israel prepares for offensive

ISRAEL'S continuous escalation of aggression on southern Lebanon points to preparations for an imminent large scale military offensive in Lebanon. In the past few weeks, Israeli forces have been carrying out raids and shelling civilian targets, and their naval forces and gunboats have been shelling coastal areas; specially Palestinian refugee camps, thus paving the way for the expected offensive that could come any time now. Israel and its agents in South Lebanon are wreaking havoc in as wide a region as possible, terrorising the population and destroying their property under the eyes of the world. As the Arabs continue to squabble over their side differences, the Israeli enemy pursues all efforts to ensure a complete domination of southern Lebanon. In Lebanon itself, the warring factions continue their differences and conflict in total disregard to Israel's plans, pursuing their futile attempts to kill one another and cause more dismemberment of the nation. The coming Israeli aggression on South Lebanon is sufficient cause for unifying these factions and also pooling the resources and efforts of various Arab countries which also are involved in their side disputes. Arab leaders ought to rise above the petty differences and speed up efforts for holding a summit meeting at which they can chart a common strategy for fending off the coming danger.

Sawt Al Shaab: Israel undermines peace efforts

ISRAEL'S continued air raids on Lebanon and shelling of civilian targets in the south, clearly reflect Tel Aviv's determination to abort all attempts by Arab countries for arriving at a just and lasting settlement in the Middle East. Israeli moves indicate that a new large scale offensive is in the offing, and that the barbaric attacks on the Lebanese people and the Palestinian camps aim at paving the way for an aggression which Israeli leaders hope could unify the coalition and end differences between the Labour and the Likud parties. By resorting to a pretext of defending Israeli settlements in the north from resistance attacks, the Israelis have been launching repeated raids on Palestinian camps in Lebanon; and the escalation of the raids lately seem to point to preparations for another large offensive like that which occurred in 1982. At the same time squabbling continues within the Israeli government about the proposed international peace conference, and an aggression on Lebanon would ease the pressure from the Israeli government. There is no doubt that the Israelis are cooking up a new trick with which they hope to deceive the world and continue to maintain their domination over the region.

AIDS needs aid

By Dr. Waleed Sa'di

MONTREAL — What worries the rank and file Westerner most, these days, is not the nuclear threat or the ozone depletion but rather the AIDS plague. The reason: It affects most directly their daily lives and the lives of their loved ones and threatens the very lives of so many Westerners all over the world in the most proximate way. It created havoc in their most cherished right of all rights, the right to have free sex and dampened their sexual emancipation. It has become the "big brother's" watching eyes over and in their bedrooms and other places of romance and love making.

The affliction has assumed such proportions that hardly a day passes by without the mass media, whether the television, press or radio, making strong and lengthy presentations on the subject. In North America, where I happen to be now, the debate over the issue of AIDS has grown over-heated with people and government officials divided over whether to begin educating even the very young as young as seven or eight years old of both sexes on how to avoid the disease should they still engage in some sexual contact or another and offer them "technical assistance" or "knowhow" to beat the plague. The "liberals" among them, and from what I could detect and discern, most of them on this subject are "liberals," are crying wolf and demanding early sex education to beat the disease in elementary class rooms and by mass media publicity on effective instruments to prevent catching the disease. The conservatives on the other hand voice their concern at early sex education and mass media publicity for fear they would further exacerbate the already devastating problem of early and child promiscuity and permissiveness in sexual behaviour. Although a minority in this context, their concern is loud and clear and directed against molesting the minds and souls of the innocent with sex literature when they are still in their buds.

The AIDS panic has reached such ominous dimensions in North America that prompted President Ronald Reagan to take prime time on U.S. television in early April to declare war on the disease and to announce that if there is no way yet to tick the problem, the

U.S. will find one. Meanwhile some North American newspapers are still disseminating news reports emanating from British, East German and Soviet scientists linking AIDS to secret laboratory experiments conducted by U.S. military scientists back in the late seventies.

While the full dimensions and extent of the plague has yet to be measured and determined, it is already established that in North America alone there are literally millions who have contracted the disease and are carriers of the sex-related virus. And in due course, the magnitude of those affected by the disease is expected to be geometrically compounded over the next few years.

And as the debate goes on in full swing on whether the road to salvation from the disease lies first and foremost in abstinence from premarital and extra-marital sex or through education and enlightenment, the West cannot escape the judgment of history that the disease per se is a sign of decadence and a negative reflection on contemporary Western culture, norms and social values. The AIDS apocalypse comes in the wake of other social afflictions in contemporary Western life including the drug problem, crime and the other law and order issues which have permeated modern life in the West. This is not to suggest that life structure in the West is not basically dynamic, healthy and kicking. What it means, rather, is that the breakdown of traditional values in Western homes and schools can still be reversed just as the law and order issues can still be addressed and rectified with the exercise of political, social and ethical will to reverse the tide. One can never tell with accuracy whether the phenomenon of women emancipation in the manner and style it had assumed in Western culture and life style has contributed to the breakdown of social values in general and the destructuring of the atomic family unit to the extent that made bones and consequently schools fertile grounds for drugs, irresponsible sexual behaviour and the erosion of law and order. Least these words be construed as absolving men of all responsibility in this horrible state of affairs, honesty requires that men be apportioned their share of the blame as well, as they were

the immediate instruments for this deterioration in the social fabric in the East as well as the West.

For us in Jordan and other parts of the Middle East, these negative experiences in the West can serve as yellow flash points warning us of the inevitable unless we act and act soon. Shall we allow ourselves to drift into the abyss of exaggerated and irresponsible social freedoms under one guise or caption or another, or shall we fight back and hold on to selected positive social values beginning with our homes and schools where neither nepotism nor free-for-all perspectives would reign supreme.

There is still a lot that we can selectively learn from the West, and their hi-technology is by no means the only positive phenomenon that we must strive to duplicate and apply in a discriminating manner and style. Yet we must be wary of experiences coming our way from the outside lest we become engulfed as well by the negative exports to our culture and norms before we allow ourselves the necessary grace period to stand on our feet more effectively and before our ways are given the necessary time to evolve positively and selectively.

To be more specific, with regard to the AIDS problem, we must accept the proposition that it has become an international problem with international dimensions. It is not too premature to introduce measures to prevent its spread into our heartland and our homes and schools. We cannot afford the luxury of assuming forever that our children who pursue their education in foreign countries or our husbands who pursue their businesses in exotic capitals will not bring back with them at one stage or another this dreadful plague. Any preventing measures that our medical authorities would propose and introduce must be complemented by immediate measures including making marriage licenses and employment of repatriated students conditional on blood tests to verify the absence of the disease. What to do with promiscuous husbands has to be left by necessity to the discretion of suspecting wives. At one stage or another the state has to step in and protect the un-suspecting wife!

Hardline Muslims are new pressure group in Egyptian parliament

By Ahmed Shawki
Reuters

CAIRO — For the first time since it was banned three decades ago, the Muslim Brotherhood has a firm foothold in parliament from which to campaign for Islamic law in Egypt.

"It is their best opportunity and I'm sure they will make the most of it," said a government official.

One Western diplomat said the Muslim Brotherhood had enough seats to stir trouble, and added: "President (Hosni) Mubarak, though he is committed to democracy, will have to take some awkward choices if things go sour."

There are 36 Muslim brothers in the 458-seat people's assembly elected this month, compared

with eight in the previous house. They had fought the 1984 election on the centre-right New Wafd Party ticket, but switched alliances for the April 6 poll and together with the Liberal Party and Socialist Labour Party (SLP) won a total 61 seats.

They view application of Islamic law, or *sharia*, as the main issue facing parliament and one alliance leader, Sheikh Youssef Al Badri, believes at least 300 members would support this.

The government says Islamic law is already the mainspring of Egypt's legislation. Badri, assistant chairman of the Liberal Party and a self-declared brother, told Reuters 90 per cent of laws were in line with Islam but the others needed changing.

He said in an interview he would urge the government to

stop the sale of alcohol, ban movie and television films based on sex and persuade women to "cover up."

Badri also proposed the rescheduling of Egypt's foreign debts of more than \$38 billion using Islamic economic principles — abolishing interest payments.

The Brotherhood, founded in Egypt in 1929, has never been a legitimate political party in this country of 50 million people, 95 per cent of whom are Muslims. It entered electoral alliances to circumvent a 33-year-old ban on engaging in politics.

It has branches throughout the Muslim world, and has always been politically controversial and at loggerheads with governments. In 1954, Cairo accused Muslim brothers of masterminding an

attempt on the life of then-President Gamal Abdul Nasser. Some senior leaders were executed and the group was outlawed.

Again in 1965, Brotherhood members were accused of trying to overthrow the government and, after a quick trial, some were sentenced to death and others served long jail terms.

But after each crackdown a new leadership emerged. Fundamentalist splinter groups, including the shadowy jihad (holy war) movement, some of whose members killed President Anwar Sadat in 1981, were offshoots of the Brotherhood.

The Muslim Brotherhood of the 1980s has found respectability and, though banned as a party, is able to operate openly, tolerated as a more moderate, middle-ground fundamentalist move-

ment than some smaller clandestine groups.

However, Interior Minister Zaki Badr says the Brotherhood remains illegal and those who won seats are only recognised as members of the alliance leader, the SLP.

Badri, who won his Cairo seat by defeating Minister of Military Production Gamal Sayed Ibrahim, points out that under the constitution "Egypt is an Islamic country and its religion is Islam."

"We will try to make it a fact," he said. Rejecting suggestions that Muslim fundamentalists are anti-Christian, Badri said: "I have told the Copts their rights will be guaranteed under an Islamic government... They believed me and voted for me."

Ahmed Seif Al Islam Hassan Al Banna, son of the Brotherhood's founder and a newly-elected assembly member, sees the enforcement of *sharia* as the main issue for debate in parliament.

"The Muslim Brotherhood offered the solution for most of the country's problems some 50 years ago, which if adopted could have saved society from its present sufferings," he said in a newspaper interview.

There has, however, been no call in Egypt for strict *sharia* punishment measures like the limb amputations and floggings introduced for theft and adultery in neighbouring Sudan in 1983 but shelved after President Jaffar Numeiri was ousted two years later.

Argentina's long battle for democracy

Argentina has just been through another harrowing time as a possible coup d'etat failed to get started. President Alfonsín can take the credit for shielding democracy. Jimmy Burns charts his career.

BUENOS AIRES — The personal taken by President Raul Alfonsín during the recent military crisis may have surprised the outside world and even many of his fellow countrymen, but in the town of Cascomus, 120 miles south-west of Buenos Aires, it will have been interpreted as something which comes naturally to "Ranito."

Mr. Alfonsín was born in Cascomus 57 years ago into a family of shopkeepers of mixed Spanish and Welsh descent — his maternal grandfather was called, Foulkes. This makes him a distant cousin of the British Labour party's spokesman on foreign affairs, Mr. George Foulkes.

The Alfonsín shop, run today by Mr. Alfonsín's cousins, has remained a focal point of communal activity where the family has been able to gauge far more accurately than any barrack-room general the hopes and fears of ordinary people.

When I first interviewed Mr. Alfonsín in December 1983, soon

after he had been elected president, he wanted to talk about his Foulkes ancestor: "He was a medical student and when he came to Argentina he proved himself a radical by fighting for Ypolito Yrigoyen."

Yrigoyen was Argentina's first democratically-elected president, whose second term in office was cut short by the first in a long line of military coups in 1930. In that year, Mr. Alfonsín was only three years old. However, the memory of the coup pervaded much of his later childhood thanks to the influence of his father, Serafin, a Spaniard with strong republican sympathies who opposed the militarism of General Franco.

At the age of 13, Mr. Alfonsín was sent to military school. Serafin had not stopped hating the military, and did not want his son to become an officer. But in those days a military education, like studying for the priesthood, was a cheap and easy way for a boy to get a reasonable private schooling. It also provided an aspiring

politician with a unique insight into the military mind.

Mr. Alfonsín quit the academy as soon as he had completed his secondary schooling and took law exams instead. By the mid-1940s, he was involved in politics, joining the opposition to General Juan Peron, who had laid the foundations of an authoritarian state after forming part of a young officers' coup.

Peron himself was toppled in a military uprising in 1955, but the

figure of the *caudillo* was to continue to dominate Argentine politics. In swift succession, a series of civilian governments were toppled by military interventions, always with the backing of a sector of the population.

In 1972, Mr. Alfonsín formed *Renovacion y Cambio* — Renewal and Change. Argentina at the time was on the threshold of civil war between the armed forces and left-wing guerrillas, in which

words like "renewal" and "change" had become synonymous with Marxism and revolution. In fact, Mr. Alfonsín was already regarded by those who knew him well as a social democrat committed to moral renewal and the establishment of a full parliamentary system as the only political solution to Argentina's long-standing problems.

He remained the rebel in the conservative pack, his left-of-centre faction contrasting with the

cautious politics of the late Ricardo Balbin, former leader of the Radical Party.

Until the Falklands war in 1982, Alfonsín's continuing exile from the mainstream of political life was to prove an asset in a political system discredited by hypocrisy and compromise. Long before human rights became an issue, he interceded on behalf of the families of the "disappeared." — Financial Times feature.

Slain American entertained the children of Nicaragua

By Andrew Selsky
The Associated Press

MATAGALPA, Nicaragua — Red-bearded Ben Linder rode a unicycle and juggled as a clown to entertain children, and accepted the hardships involved in his work as an engineer helping to electrify the Nicaraguan countryside. The 27-year-old Linder on Tuesday became the first American volunteer for the leftist Sandinista government killed by contra rebels in the 5-year-old war here.

Linder first came to Nicaragua in 1983.

"He was always very happy," said Mira Brown, a young woman from Boston who worked with him building a hydroelectric plant that brought electricity for the first time to El Cua, a tiny town not far from Matagalpa.

She said Linder had a hard time getting a working permit because programme for the *internacionalistas*, as the foreign volunteers are known, weren't developed in 1983, so he joined the national circus.

For three months, he rode a

unicycle, juggled and dressed as a clown in the circus troupe, she said.

Ms. Brown described him as hard working and cheerful, an idealist without firm political beliefs.

Linder was a member of the Nicaraguan appropriate technology project, or NICAT, working on the construction of a small hydroelectric plant in La Camaleona, a village about 32 kilometres from here, when he was killed Tuesday.

NICAT is a pro-Nicaraguan group based in the United States.

Alejandro Morales, one of Linder's Nicaraguan colleagues at the power company, said the young American was a "highly qualified technician" but also used to bring entertainment to children in the region's impoverished villages.

"Sometimes when villages would have parties, he would dress up as a clown," Morales said. "He would fascinate the children, including my seven-year-old daughter, with juggling acts, some on a unicycle he owned, and other tricks."

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جسٹس

King and Queen to open Amman SOS Children's Village on May 7

AMMAN (J.T.) — The SOS Children's Village of Amman will be formally opened by Their Majesties King Hussein and Queen Noor on May 7. The ceremony will be attended by the president of the Austria-based SOS Children's Villages, according to a spokesman for the SOS Children's Village of Amman.

The village, situated on 33 dunams of land at Tareq town, west of Amman, comprises nine family houses, a director's house, a bakery, a supermarket, a staff house, a guest house and a kindergarten which opened its doors in September last year.

The cornerstone of the SOS Children's Village of Amman was laid in October 1984 by Her Majesty Queen Noor, the honorary chairperson of the SOS Chil-

dren's Village Association. The village houses orphans and abandoned children. Care is provided through women with household experience serving as "mothers" for the destitute children.

The SOS Children's Village of Jordan is supported through the donations and contributions from the Jordanian community.

The conditions of the village, which provides for 43 children, were reviewed at a meeting here Sunday by Minister of Labour and Social Development Khaled Al Haj Hassan, and Mr. von Nidda, regional representative of SOS villages in the Middle East.

Mr. von Nidda briefed the minister on the education and care being given to the children and arrangements for the official

opening on May 7.

In an earlier interview with the Jordan Times, Mr. von Nidda said that each group of children, between the ages of one and 11, are cared for in a family-like atmosphere and enjoy close to a normal life.

The Amman village is the 14th of its kind in the Arab World. The SOS Children's Villages were founded by Professor Hermann Gmeiner, who died in Austria on April 16, 1986 and was buried in Innsbruck. It was there that he established the first SOS Children's Village 36 years ago.

SOS Children's Villages are recognised world-wide as models of family-oriented care and education for orphaned children.

700 centres open to register voters for upcoming elections

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The Kingdom's electoral process for the forthcoming general elections kicked off on Sunday as Jordanians began registering to vote at 700 centres. The election of the 142 legislators to the Lower House of Parliament, which evenly represents the East and West Banks of the Kingdom, are scheduled for September.

The 71 East Bank deputies are to be elected directly by voters, while an equal number of West Bank representatives are to be elected by the House itself. Eleven of the 71 West Bank seats are allocated for representatives of refugee camps in Jordan.

The voter registration centres will remain open through May 17, during which time all Jordanians aged 19 and above can register.

Amman Governor Mohammad Amin made an inspection tour of the 201 registration centres in the

Amman area and reminded citizens to bring along the family registration book issued by the Civil Registration Department to prove their eligibility. He said that relatives or friends could bring the book without the voter coming in person.

According to the election law, people who have been convicted, and served more than one year for a non-political crime and who were not pardoned are not eligible to vote. Members of the public security, the armed forces and the civil defence are also not allowed to vote while in the service. The law also excludes those who have filed for bankruptcy, and those who are in custody and who have not been pardoned.

The new electoral law was voted into law by the Lower House of Parliament on March 28, 1986, following several amendments to the government's version of the law.

Only two deputies — Riad Nawayseh and Laith Shbeilat —

voted against the new electoral law which was passed by a majority vote, raising the number of deputies from 60 to 142. Seven deputies were absent from the session.

The two deputies who voted against the law contended that the distribution of constituencies "was based on sectarian, racial, tribal and regional considerations, instead of pure demographic factors." Mr. Shbeilat called for the exclusion of the West Bank from representation in Parliament since it is still under Israeli occupation. Jordanian officials said such an exclusion would create "a political vacuum" in the occupied territories which "could be used by the Israeli authorities to impose a de facto annexation."

The new law lowered the voting age to 19 from 20 and reserves 17 seats for Christians and three for Circassians and Chichans in the country. Candidates have to be 30 to run in the elections.

Jordan buys 200,000 tonnes of Saudi wheat

AMMAN (J.T.) — Jordan has reached an agreement with Saudi Arabia for the purchase of 200,000 tonnes of Saudi Arabian wheat. Shipments to Jordan will begin during the second half of this month, Under Secretary of the Ministry of Supply Abdullah Al Hawamdeh announced here Sunday.

Mr. Hawamdeh made the announcement upon his return to Amman from a five-day visit to Riyadh, where he held talks with Saudi Arabian officials. The minister would not disclose the total cost of the purchase, but said that the price was appropriate.

The Ministry of Supply is working to ensure sufficient supplies of wheat to Jordan for at least six months. To achieve this, the Cabinet decided to purchase the new consignment of wheat upon the recommendation of the Minister of Supply, Mr. Hawamdeh said.

He said that the Ministry of Supply has found from reports by the Ministry of Agriculture that local wheat production for this

year will not exceed 100,000 tonnes, and decided to import wheat from Saudi Arabia and the United States.

The deal with the United States provides for the importation of 225,000 tonnes of wheat at a total cost of \$25 million under a Commodity Export Credit system (CEC), with the financing to be covered by two local finance and credit firms.

The deal with Saudi Arabia, Mr. Hawamdeh noted, was reached following lengthy contacts; the shipments will be made directly between the Jordanian and Saudi Arabian governments without the help of middlemen so as to reduce the cost.

Mr. Hawamdeh said that his delegation to Saudi Arabia included representatives of the Ministry of Supply, in addition to the Jordan National Shipping Lines.

Mr. Hawamdeh voiced Jordan's appreciation to Saudi Arabia for facilitating the signing of the deal and its ready response for Jordan's supply needs.

Another bone marrow transplant scheduled following first success

By Rana Sabbagh
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Bone marrow transplant in the Kingdom are off to an encouraging start with the second operation of this kind scheduled to take place at the University of Jordan Hospital before this week end.

The expected surgery involves a 29-year-old Jordanian male suffering from aplastic anemia — anemia resulting from the bone marrow being unable to produce sufficient red blood cells, and is usually caused by toxins.

The bone marrow donor to this transplant is the patient's 32-year-old brother.

All medical and laboratory tests on the compatibility of the bone marrow cells of the recipient and the donor have been completed with positive results, said Dr. Abdullah Oweidi Al Abadi.

Dr. Abadi, a veteran hematologist at the University of Jordan Hospital, headed a team of eight surgeons during Jordan's first-ever recorded bone marrow transplant, which took place on April 27.

Dr. Abadi preferred that the names of the patient and his brother not be mentioned, but told the Jordan Times on Sunday that they were presently "undergoing all medical preparations" for the "soon to be held surgery."

The expected operation differs

from the April surgery in that it is classified as an allogeneic transplant, one in which the bone marrow donor is a brother or a sister of the patient.

The April surgery, medically termed as an auto-transplant, involved taking bone marrow from the patient's iliac bone, one of the three pelvic bones, and feeding it intravenously back into him after it was purified and chemically processed.

In the meantime, Dr. Abadi described the condition of Mr. Ali Harb who underwent the recent bone marrow transplant as "stable." "Everything is going as expected," he said. Mr. Harb will continue to get his nourishment via tubes for the coming five days, after which, he will be switched to a regular diet.

He also had his first blood transfusion on Thursday, when he was given two units of specially processed blood to strengthen his immune system, said the hematologist.

Mr. Harb will require another four to five units of processed blood before he recovers and his immune system functions well enough, said other doctors supervising the patient. The patient suffered from Hodgkin's Disease, an illness characterised by progressive enlargement of lymph nodes, spleen and liver through anemia. Mr. Harb's doctors gave him no more than six weeks to live had he not undergone the operation.

The success rate of such operations world-wide is estimated to be between 45 to 75 per cent. Unlike the majority of similar types of surgery, the positive side of bone marrow transplants are that if the surgery succeeds, it guarantees a life-time cure.

Doctors supervising Mr. Harb have stressed that it was premature to judge the first-transplant's final success rate, but said that, if his recuperation continues at its present pace, he would be discharged from hospital in around 17 days.

Dr. Abadi could not disclose an estimate of the operation's cost, but said it was "a very expensive surgery due to all the technical and chemical treatment involved in it."

According to reports on similar types of surgery, bone marrow transplants carried out in the U.S. cost between \$60,000 to \$100,000 and from \$30,000 to \$45,000 in Europe.

IPU delegate calls for efforts toward peace

MANAGUA (Petra) — The International Parliamentary Union (IPU) ended its 77th conference here with a call on world's parliamentarians to work toward convening an international peace conference on the Middle East and to support international efforts to stop the Iran-Iraq war.

The week-long conference also called for the implementation of the U.N. Security Council resolutions regarding an end to the Lebanese crisis.

A member of Jordan's delegation to the conference, Rizk Al Bataineh, was elected vice-chairman of the economic and social committee. Mr. Bataineh, who is also chairman of the Foreign Relations Committee of the Lower House of Parliament, delivered a speech in which he said that Israel, as a result of U.S. support, has been placing obstacles before the convening of a Middle East international peace conference.

Jordan has called for such a conference as a means for achieving a just and durable peace in the Middle East.

The IPU is interested in contributing to world peace, detente and disarmament, Mr. Bataineh said. He also suggested that the conference form a special committee to investigate the causes of tension between countries and to submit its report to the IPU conference two months before the next session to enable participants to acquaint themselves with it.

Jordanian, Iraqi universities sign exchange agreement

AMMAN (Petra) — The University of Jordan and the Iraqi Al Mustansiriyah University signed an agreement here for cultural cooperation.

Under the agreement, signed by Dr. Abdul Salam Al Majali, president of the University of Jordan, and Dr. Riad Hamed Al Dabbagh, president of Al Mustansiriyah University, both sides will exchange visits by professors and teaching staff. The visiting faculty will deliver lectures, conduct joint research, provide expertise, and convey information on different scientific and literary subjects. The two universities will

Hindawi meets with Challenger shuttle group, backs space education centre

AMMAN (Petra) — Minister of Education Thouqan Al Hindawi said here Sunday that his ministry will be willing to help establish a space education centre in the United States designed to offer a chance for Jordanian students to study space-related subjects.

The minister was speaking at a meeting with a visiting delegation from the U.S. Challenger Space Centre which arrived here Saturday on a six-day visit to Jordan.

The Ministry of Education has formed a special committee for cultural cooperation with other countries, Mr. Hindawi noted. He said that Jordan would do its utmost to take advantage of the

space education centre and its programmes.

The delegation, which groups the centre's director and five family members of the Challenger space shuttle's crew who were killed in a crash last year, briefed the minister on the proposed space education centre which they said will be focussed on educating children from different countries.

The two sides discussed ways of cooperating in the exchange of teachers and students.

The meeting was attended by the Ministry of Education's Secretary General Dr. Radi Al Waqfi and other officials.

Group meets university president

The space education centre's group later met with University of Jordan President Abdul Salam Al Majali. They discussed the potential benefit of the proposed centre, which will beam educational programmes to cooperating countries.

Dr. Majali briefed the visitors on the development and services of his university. He then showed them a documentary film about the different activities of the university.

Vaccinations, expulsions form part of ministry's fight against tuberculosis

AMMAN (Petra) — The Health Ministry last year discovered 365 new cases of tuberculosis in Jordan, of which 109 were of non-Jordanian workers employed in the country, Dr. Ali Muheisin, director of the Ministry's Chest Diseases Department, has said.

In an interview with the Jordan News Agency, Petra, Dr. Muheisin said that the non-Jordanians with the disease have already been asked to leave the country.

He said that the ministry has conducted an intensive campaign to vaccinate people in the remote regions of the Kingdom. At least 72,000 school children around the Kingdom received the vaccine against tuberculosis during 1986 concentrated in the regions of Wadi Araba and Dhiban in southern Jordan, and X-raying of chests continues, Dr. Muheisin added.

The Health Ministry is also involved in a survey of remote regions of the Kingdom, and continues a process of screening of all non-Jordanian workers arriving for work in the Kingdom to stem the spread of the disease, Dr. Muheisin pointed out.

He said that Health Ministry teams are being increased to help carry out surveys and staff are being offered advanced training to raise their efficiency and skill. The Health Ministry's programmes in this respect, Dr. Muheisin noted, are part of a drive to achieve primary health care service for all citizens by the year 2000. All efforts are being made regardless of the cost to keep Jordan free of disease, he said.

The Health Ministry recently signed a protocol with Czechoslovakia for implementing an agreement on cooperation in health

care and combating infectious diseases.

Under the agreement, the health ministries of both countries will exchange expertise and information on health care-related issues, and will exchange visits by health staff and specialists. The two countries plan to

offer researchers, doctors, and scientists facilities for exchange of information and expertise in X-ray and diagnosis and in combating contagious diseases.

According to the agreement, Czechoslovakia will offer training to three Jordanian specialists in treatments with mineral baths.

Joint Jordan-Egypt panel to discuss bilateral ties

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Joint Jordanian-Egyptian Higher Committee is due to open its meeting in Amman Tuesday to discuss bilateral cooperation and to review the committee's past achievements.

The committee, co-chaired by the prime ministers of both countries, Mr. Zaid Rifai and Dr. Ataf Sedki, will be discussing projects that the two countries have agreed to implement in the fields of agriculture, telecommunications, culture, education and trade, as well as the recently concluded linkage of the national power grids of the two countries.

A joint committee, preparing for Tuesday's meeting, held a session at the Ministry of Industry and Trade on Sunday to review the agenda of subjects to be

discussed. The committee members reviewed past achievements of the higher committee and prospects for further bilateral cooperation in mining, trade, agriculture, tourism and industry, according to the Jordan News Agency, Petra.

The committee preparing for Tuesday's meeting was co-chaired by Mr. Mohammad Saqaf, under secretary of Jordan's Ministry of Trade and Industry, and Mr. Midhat Abdul Azz, under secretary of the Egyptian Ministry of Planning.

The previous session of the Joint Jordanian-Egyptian Higher Committee was held in Cairo in April last year. In the Cairo meeting, the two sides passed a number of resolutions and recommendations.

Fayez invited to India

AMMAN (Petra) — The Indian parliament has invited Lower House of Parliament Speaker Akef Al Fayez to pay a visit to India.

The invitation was formally conveyed to Mr. Fayez by the Indian ambassador to Jordan.

Mr. Gurcharan Singh, during a meeting on Sunday.

Mr. Fayez and Mr. Singh also discussed bilateral relations and means to further cooperation between Jordan and India in various fields.

Arafat plays down differences

(Continued from page 1)

It said Sheikh Sabah "specifically cited the rift in Palestinian relations with both Jordan and Egypt following the scrapping of the PLO's accord with Jordan on joint action for Middle East peace."

The PNC ended its 18th session in Algiers last week with Mr. Arafat reaffirming the divided Palestinian factions.

But his former opponents in the PLO hierarchy forced a hard-line posture on the Middle East peace-making drive.

Hardliner Syria and Libya were reported to have been angered with George Habbash, leader of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP), for joining Mr. Arafat's moderate line.

But PFLP sources were quoted Friday as denying Dr. Habbash had been banned from Syria, saying he will return to Damascus for a meeting with President Assad.

Mr. Arafat also denied that Dr. Habbash had been barred from returning to Damascus.

Mr. Assad was also reported to have said "there is no problem" to the return of Nayef Hawatmeh, leader of the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine (DFLP). Mr. Hawatmeh had also been reported barred from Syria after attending the PNC meeting.

The UAE newspaper Al Itihad quoted "reliable Syrian sources" as saying there would be Syrian decisions "contrary to all expectations regarding Palestinian affairs."

Syrian 'flexibility'

Mr. Assad was talking about the Palestinian issue "with great flexibility" at a meeting Saturday with the National Progressive Front, a grouping of political parties that participate in running the country's affairs with the ruling Baath Party, Al Itihad said.

"Assad thinks there are several positive points" to the outcome of the PNC, the sources, which were not identified, quoted the Syrian president as saying.

"What happened in Algiers is a great thing. We are looking for its positive points regardless of negative ones. We should work for enhancing these positive points," he was quoted as saying.

The sources also pointed to a conciliatory role played by the Soviet Union to close ranks between Mr. Arafat and Damascus.

Moscow's conciliatory efforts coincided with reports of advanced Soviet armed shipments arriving in Damascus over the past few days.

Lebanese sources close to Mr. Assad were reported by Al Itihad as saying the shipment included ultra-modern T-72 tanks, and surface-to-air and surface-to-surface missiles.

They said the arms shipments were a result of Mr. Assad's recent visit to Moscow.

AP reported from Damascus on Sunday that Mr. Assad met with leaders of the Syrian-backed Palestine National Salvation Front (PNSF), initially set up as a counterweight to Mr. Arafat.

Observers quoted by AP, said the meeting showed the PNSF was still active despite reunification of the PLO.

Dr. Habbash, one of the leaders of the front, said at the outset of the PNC meeting in Algiers that the front was dismantled in the wake of successful talks with Mr. Arafat on PLO reunification.

Among the Palestinian leaders meeting with Mr. Assad was Khaled Fahoum, a former speaker of the PNC who was removed from that post at the Amman session of the council in November 1984.

Another was Abdul Mohsen Abu Maizar, an independent who once sat on the PLO's Executive Committee but was later ousted.

Damascus Radio, in reporting the two men's talks with Mr. Assad, referred to them using the titles they held before their ouster.

It was not immediately known which other leaders were at the meeting. But the Syrian media listed four factions it said were represented at the talks, without saying by whom.

They included three member groups of the PLO: The Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine-General Command, led by Ahmad Jibril, which broke with

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Better future for all

BESIDES reaffirming that there have been no contacts made or agreements reached with Israel on the question of the proposed international conference, the prime minister's statement yesterday made Jordan's position very clear on two essential points. The first is that Jordan remains committed to convening a U.N.-sponsored conference as the only way to reach a peaceful settlement to the Palestinian problem. And, the second is that there is no point in discussing the matter any further until and unless Israel first accepts the idea of a conference whose convocation is governed by the set of principles that are contained in Mr. Rifai's statement.

These principles, which, except for Israel and the U.S., have been universally endorsed and internationally sanctioned, are not only simple to understand and easy to accept by all parties if there is genuine desire to find a solution based on compromise and reason; they are also central to any effort aimed at making progress towards peace in the area. For, who can deny the PLO its right to represent the Palestinians, especially when it is no less than the future of this people that is at stake? And who can deny that a U.N.-sponsored forum, attended by the five big powers and all parties to the conflict, is the best place to implement the universally acclaimed resolutions, 242 and 338? Further, is it not only correct and proper to assume that the proposed U.N.-sponsored negotiations, in order to be useful and productive, have to be conducted in an atmosphere free of violence and terrorism, by any side or party, against the other?

The prime minister's statement makes abundantly clear what Jordan wants and expects from all the parties concerned, in order to continue with its intensive, untiring efforts to reach an honourable settlement to the Palestinian problem. If, for their own reasons, these parties cannot see wisdom in these words, or cannot bring themselves to accept what true peace would require of them, then Jordan, at least, will have done its best to avert bloodshed and perpetual conflict in this part of the world.

We hope that Jordan's latest reaffirmation of its position will serve not only as a reminder to everybody of their duty to work for peace, but also as a driving force to take a step forward and to build on this step for a better future for all.

ARABIC PRESS EDITORIALS

Al Ra'i: Time for unified Arab stand

AS efforts continue for holding an international Middle East peace conference we feel that it is more important now than at any time in the past to bring about a unified Arab stand capable of defining and implementing Arab hopes and aspirations when the conference is held. Needless to say that the Arabs must hold on to their demands for an Israeli withdrawal from occupied Arab lands in implementation of the U.N. Security Council resolutions, a position which is backed by the European countries and the rest of the world with the exception of Israel and the United States which oppose such ideas. Crystallising a unified Arab stand is of the utmost importance at the moment, and Arab leaders should meet now to chart a concerted policy and strategy for the aspired conference. There is no real justification for postponing an Arab summit meeting and such an important issue should not be left without settlement indefinitely. Events are happening fast and the danger of the common enemy increases in intensity every day, and this is enough to prompt the Arab leaders to meet and discuss a unified stand. Arab leaders are responsible for their nation and should shoulder their task regardless of side differences and the present circumstances. The subject of an international conference is of paramount importance for the Arabs because it is hoped that it will help them regain their land and their rights, and also establish peace that has eluded the Middle East for so long.

Al Dustour: Israel prepares for offensive

ISRAEL'S continuous escalation of aggression on southern Lebanon points to preparations for an imminent large scale military offensive in Lebanon. In the past few weeks, Israeli forces have been carrying out raids and shelling civilian targets, and their naval forces and gunboats have been shelling coastal areas; specially Palestinian refugee camps, thus paving the way for the expected offensive that could come any time now. Israel and its agents in South Lebanon are wreaking havoc in as wide a region as possible, terrorising the population and destroying their property under the eyes of the world. As the Arabs continue to squabble over their side differences, the Israeli enemy pursues all efforts to ensure a complete domination of southern Lebanon. In Lebanon itself, the warring factions continue their differences and conflict in total disregard to Israel's plans, pursuing their futile attempts to kill one another and cause more dismemberment of the nation. The coming Israeli aggression on South Lebanon is sufficient cause for unifying these factions and also pooling the resources and efforts of various Arab countries which also are involved in their side disputes. Arab leaders ought to rise above the petty differences and speed up efforts for holding a summit meeting at which they can chart a common strategy for fending off the coming danger.

Sawt Al Shaab: Israel undermines peace efforts

ISRAEL'S continued air raids on Lebanon and shelling of civilian targets in the south, clearly reflect Tel Aviv's determination to abort all attempts by Arab countries for arriving at a just and lasting settlement in the Middle East. Israeli moves indicate that a new large scale offensive is in the offing, and that the barbaric attacks on the Lebanese people and the Palestinian camps aim at paving the way for an aggression which Israeli leaders hope could unify the coalition and end differences between the Labour and the Likud parties. By resorting to a pretext of defending Israeli settlements in the north from resistance attacks, the Israelis have been launching repeated raids on Palestinian camps in Lebanon; and the escalation of the raids lately seem to point to preparations for another large offensive like that which occurred in 1982. At the same time squabbling continues within the Israeli government about the proposed international peace conference, and an aggression on Lebanon would ease the pressure from the Israeli government. There is no doubt that the Israelis are cooking up a new trick with which they hope to deceive the world and continue to maintain their domination over the region.

AIDS needs aid

By Dr. Waleed Sa'di

MONTREAL — What worries the rank and file Westerner most, these days, is not the nuclear threat or the ozone depletion but rather the AIDS plague. The reason: It affects most directly their daily lives and the lives of their loved ones and threatens the very lives of so many Westerners all over the world in the most proximate way. It created havoc in their most cherished right of all rights, the right to have free sex and dampened their sexual emancipation. It has become the "big brother's" watching eyes over and in their bedrooms and other places of romance and love making.

The affliction has assumed such proportions that hardly a day passes by without the mass media, whether the television, press or radio, making strong and lengthy presentations on the subject. In North America, where I happen to be now, the debate over the issue of AIDS has grown over-heated with people and government officials divided over whether to begin educating even the very young as young as seven or eight years old of both sexes on how to avoid the disease should they still engage in some sexual contact or another and offer them "technical assistance" or "knowhow" to beat the plague. The "liberals" among them, and from what I could detect and discern, most of them on this subject are "liberals," are crying wolf and demanding early sex education to beat the disease in elementary class rooms and by mass media publicity on effective instruments to prevent catching the disease. The conservatives on the other hand voice their concern at early sex education and mass media publicity for fear they would further exacerbate the already devastating problem of early and child promiscuity and permissiveness in sexual behaviour. Although a minority in this context, their concern is loud and clear and directed against molesting the minds and souls of the innocent with sex literature when they are still in their buds.

The AIDS panic has reached such ominous dimensions in North America that prompted President Ronald Reagan to take prime time on U.S. television in early April to declare war on the disease and to announce that if there is no way yet to lick the problem, the

U.S. will find one. Meanwhile some North American newspapers are still disseminating news reports emanating from British, East German and Soviet scientists linking AIDS to secret laboratory experiments conducted by U.S. military scientists back in the late seventies.

While the full dimensions and extent of the plague has yet to be measured and determined, it is already established that in North America alone there are literally millions who have contracted the disease and are carriers of the sex-related virus. And in due course, the magnitude of those affected by the disease is expected to be geometrically compounded over the next few years.

And as the debate goes on in full swing on whether the road to salvation from the disease lies first and foremost in abstinence from premarital and extra-marital sex or through education and enlightenment, the West cannot escape the judgment of history that the disease per se is a sign of decadence and a negative reflection on contemporary Western culture, norms and social values. The AIDS apocalypse comes in the wake of other social afflictions in contemporary Western life including the drug problem, crime and the other law and order issues which have permeated modern life in the West. This is not to suggest that life structure in the West is not basically dynamic, healthy and kicking. What it means, rather, is that the breakdown of traditional values in Western homes and schools can still be reversed just as the law and order issues can still be addressed and rectified with the exercise of political, social and ethical will to reverse the tide. One can never tell with accuracy whether the phenomenon of women emancipation in the manner and style it had assumed in Western culture and life style has contributed to the breakdown of social values in general and the destructuring of the atomic family unit to the extent that made homes and consequently schools fertile grounds for drugs, irresponsible sexual behaviour and the erosion of law and order. Let these words be construed as absolving men of all responsibility in this horrible state of affairs, honesty requires that men be apportioned their share of the blame as well, as they were

the immediate instruments for this deterioration in the social fabric in the East as well as the West.

For us in Jordan and other parts of the Middle East, these negative experiences in the West can serve as yellow-flash points warning us of the inevitable unless we act and act soon. Shall we allow ourselves to drift into the abyss of exaggerated and irresponsible social freedoms under one guise or caption or another, or shall we fight back and hold on to selected positive social values beginning with our homes and schools where neither nepotism nor free-for-all perspectives would reign supreme.

There is still a lot that we can selectively learn from the West, and their hi-technology is by no means the only positive phenomenon that we must strive to duplicate and apply in a discriminating manner and style. Yet we must be wary of experiences coming our way from the outside lest we become engulfed as well by the negative exports to our culture and norms before we allow ourselves the necessary grace period to stand on our feet more effectively and before our ways are given the necessary time to evolve positively and selectively.

To be more specific, with regard to the AIDS problem, we must accept the proposition that it has become an international problem with international dimensions. It is not too premature to introduce measures to prevent its spread into our heartland and our homes and schools. We cannot afford the luxury of assuming forever that our children who pursue their education in foreign countries or our husbands who pursue their businesses in exotic capitals will not bring back with them at one stage or another this dreadful plague. Any preventing measures that our medical authorities would propose and introduce must be complemented by immediate measures including making marriage licenses and employment of repatriated students conditional on blood tests to verify the absence of the disease. What to do with promiscuous husbands has to be left by necessity to the discretion of suspecting wives. At one stage or another the state has to step in and protect the unsuspecting wife!

Hardline Muslims are new pressure group in Egyptian parliament

By Ahmed Shawki
 Reuters

CAIRO — For the first time since it was banned three decades ago, the Muslim Brotherhood has a firm foothold in parliament from which to campaign for Islamic law in Egypt.

"It is their best opportunity and I'm sure they will make the most of it," said a government official.

One Western diplomat said the Muslim Brotherhood had enough seats to stir trouble, and added: "President (Hosni) Mubarak, though he is committed to democracy, will have to take some awkward choices if things go sour."

There are 36 Muslim brothers in the 458-seat people's assembly elected this month, compared

with eight in the previous house. They had fought the 1984 election on the centre-right New Wafd Party ticket, but switched alliances for the April 6 poll and together with the Liberal Party and Socialist Labour Party (SLP) won a total 61 seats.

They view application of Islamic law, or sharia, as the main issue facing parliament and one alliance leader, Sheikh Youssef Al Badri, believes at least 300 members would support this.

The government says Islamic law is already the mainspring of Egypt's legislation. Badri, assistant chairman of the Liberal Party and a self-declared brother, told Reuters 90 per cent of laws were in line with Islam but the others needed changing.

He said in an interview he would urge the government to

stop the sale of alcohol, ban movie and television films based on sex and persuade women to "cover up".

Badri also proposed the rescheduling of Egypt's foreign debts of more than \$38 billion using Islamic economic principles — abolishing interest payments.

The Brotherhood, founded in Egypt in 1929, has never been a legitimate political party in this country of 50 million people, 95 per cent of whom are Muslims. It entered electoral alliances to circumvent a 33-year-old ban on engaging in politics.

It has branches throughout the Muslim world, and has always been politically controversial and at loggerheads with governments. In 1954, Cairo accused Muslim brothers of masterminding an

attempt on the life of then-President Gamal Abdul Nasser. Some senior leaders were executed and the group was outlawed.

Again in 1965, Brotherhood members were accused of trying to overthrow the government and, after a quick trial, some were sentenced to death and others served long jail terms.

But after each crackdown a new leadership emerged. Fundamentalist splinter groups, including the shadowy jihad (holy war) movement, some of whose members killed President Anwar Sadat in 1981, were offshoots of the Brotherhood.

The Muslim Brotherhood of the 1980s has found respectability and, though banned as a party, is able to operate openly, tolerated as a more moderate, middle-ground fundamentalist move-

ment than some smaller clandestine groups.

However, Interior Minister Zaki Badr says the Brotherhood remains illegal and those who won seats are only recognised as members of the alliance leader, the SLP.

Badri, who won his Cairo seat by defeating Minister of Military Production Gamal Sayed Ibrahim, points out that under the constitution "Egypt is an Islamic country and its religion is Islam."

"We will try to make it a fact," he said. Rejecting suggestions that Muslim fundamentalists are anti-Christian, Badri said: "I have told the Copts their rights will be guaranteed under an Islamic government... They believed me and voted for me."

Ahmed Seif Al Islam Hassan Al Banna, son of the Brotherhood's founder and a newly-elected assembly member, sees the enforcement of sharia as the main issue for debate in parliament.

"The Muslim Brotherhood offered the solution for most of the country's problems some 50 years ago, which if adopted could have saved society from its present sufferings," he said in a newspaper interview.

There has, however, been no call in Egypt for strict sharia punishment measures like the limb amputations and floggings introduced for theft and adultery in neighbouring Sudan in 1983 but shelved after President Jaffar Numeiri was ousted two years later.

Argentina's long battle for democracy

Argentina has just been through another harrowing time as a possible coup d'etat failed to get started. President Alfonsín can take the credit for shielding democracy. Jimmy Barnes charts his career.

BUENOS AIRES — The personal stand taken by President Raul Alfonsín during the recent military crisis may have surprised the outside world and even many of his fellow countrymen, but in the town of Cascomus, 120 miles south-west of Buenos Aires, it will have been interpreted as something which comes naturally to "Ranilo".

Mr. Alfonsín was born in Cascomus 57 years ago into a family of shopkeepers of mixed Spanish and Welsh descent — his maternal grandfather was called Foulkes. This makes him a distant cousin of the British Labour party's spokesman on foreign affairs, Mr. George Foulkes.

The Alfonsín shop, run today by Mr. Alfonsín's cousins, has remained a focal point of communal activity where the family has been able to gauge far more accurately than any barrack-room general the hopes and fears of ordinary people.

When I first interviewed Mr. Alfonsín in December 1983, soon

after he had been elected president, he wanted to talk about his Foulkes ancestor. "He was a medical student and when he came to Argentina he proved himself a radical by fighting for Ypolito Yrigoyen."

Yrigoyen was Argentina's first democratically-elected president, whose second term in office was cut short by the first in a long line of military coups in 1930. In that year, Mr. Alfonsín was only three years old. However, the memory of the coup pervaded much of his later childhood thanks to the influence of his father, Serafin, a Spaniard with strong republican sympathies who opposed the militarism of General Franco.

At the age of 13, Mr. Alfonsín was sent to military school. Serafin had not stopped hating the military, and did not want his son to become an officer. But in those days a military education, like studying for the priesthood, was a cheap and easy way for a boy to get a reasonable private schooling. It also provided an aspiring

politician with a unique insight into the military mind.

Mr. Alfonsín quit the academy as soon as he had completed his secondary schooling and took law exams instead. By the mid-1940s, he was involved in politics, joining the opposition to General Juan Peron, who had laid the foundations of an authoritarian state after forming part of a young officers' coup.

Peron himself was toppled in a military uprising in 1956, but the

figure of the caudillo was to continue to dominate Argentine politics. In swift succession, a series of civilian governments were toppled by military interventions, always with the backing of a sector of the population.

In 1972, Mr. Alfonsín formed Reconocimiento y Cambio — Renewal and Change. Argentina at the time was on the threshold of civil war between the armed forces and left-wing guerrillas, in which

words like, "renewal" and "change" had become synonymous with Marxism and revolution. In fact, Mr. Alfonsín was already regarded by those who knew him well as a social democrat committed to moral renewal and the establishment of a full parliamentary system as the only political solution to Argentina's long-standing problems.

He remained the rebel in the conservative pack, his left-of-centre faction contrasting with the

cautious politics of the late Ricardo Balbin, former leader of the Radical Party.

Until the Falklands war in 1982, Alfonsín's continuing exile from the mainstream of political life was to prove an asset in a political system discredited by hypocrisy and compromise. Long before human rights became an issue, he interceded on behalf of the families of the "disappeared." — Financial Times

Slain American entertained the children of Nicaragua

By Andrew Selsky
 The Associated Press

MATAGALPA, Nicaragua — Red-bearded Ben Linder rode a unicycle and juggled as a clown to entertain children, and accepted the hardships involved in his work as an engineer helping to electrify the Nicaraguan countryside, those who knew him say.

The 27-year-old Linder on Tuesday became the first American volunteer for the leftist Sandinista government killed by contra rebels in the 5-year-old war here.

Linder first came to Nicaragua in 1983.

"He was always very happy," said Mira Brown, a young woman from Boston who worked with him building a hydroelectric plant that brought electricity for the first time to El Cui, a tiny town not far from Matagalpa.

She said Linder had a hard time getting a working permit because programme for the internationalists, as the foreign volunteers are known, weren't as developed in 1983, so he joined the national circus.

For three months, he rode a

unicycle, juggled and dressed as a clown in the circus troupe, she said.

Ms. Brown described him as hard working and cheerful, an idealist without firm political beliefs.

Linder was a member of the Nicaraguan appropriate technology project, or NICAT, working on the construction of a small hydroelectric plant in La Camaleona, a village about 32 kilometres from here, when he was killed Tuesday.

NICAT is a pro-Nicaraguan group based in the United States.

Alejandro Morales, one of Linder's Nicaraguan colleagues at the power company, said the young American was a "highly qualified technician" but also used to bring entertainment to children in the region's impoverished villages.

"Sometimes when villages would have parties, he would dress up as a clown," Morales said. "He would fascinate the children, including my seven-year-old daughter, with juggling acts, some on a unicycle he owned, and other tricks."

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Archaeologists, lawyers wrestle with problem of global looting

By Mercer Cross
National Geographic

PHILADELPHIA — In Colorado, two of every three known archaeological sites have been damaged.

In Arizona, 95 per cent of the listed sites have been vandalised. On the James River in Virginia, many important 17th-century historical sites have been wiped out in the past year.

In Iran during the 1970s, mechanised scoops capable of picking up a three-story house levelled 2,500-year-old mounds containing irreplaceable artifacts. Treasure-hunters compete with the Florida government for the right to keep booty found in shipwrecks off the coast.

Horror stories

Nearly everybody at a recent symposium, titled "Looting and the Law: the Battle to Preserve Our Cultural Heritage," had a horror story to illustrate some phase of the global problem of archaeological desecration. About 50 people attended the symposium at the University of Pennsylvania Museum of Archaeology and Anthropology.

Looting is a problem that will never be eradicated, they agreed. The best way to reduce it, several participants said, is public education.

"The rate of destruction and the absolute number of sites being destroyed is continuing to increase," said David Orr of Philadelphia, regional archaeologist for the National Park Service. "Funds to salvage essential data on local, state, and federal levels are not increasing." He divided the desecrators into four categories.

— Amateur archaeologists and bottle-collectors, including some 250,000 Americans "who chew up sites in their haste to get goodies." These people, Orr said, can be approached through enlightenment and education.

— Vandals. "People responsible for this had criminal records going back to the Neolithic period," Orr said, "and all the education in the world isn't going to help you."

— Off-road-vehicle enthusiasts who unwittingly tear up thousands of acres of artifact-bearing landscape, particularly in western deserts. Archaeologists have had a medium of success in reasoning with them, Orr said.

— Profit-seeking operators who say "Let's go out and dig the stuff up and sell it," often for huge amounts of money, Orr said.

Groping in dark

Ellen Herscher of the American Association of Museums, Washington, D.C., described international traffic in artifacts as "a problem estimated to be second only to narcotics" as an illegal activity. But lack of firm data means that dealing with the problem is very much like groping in the dark, she said.

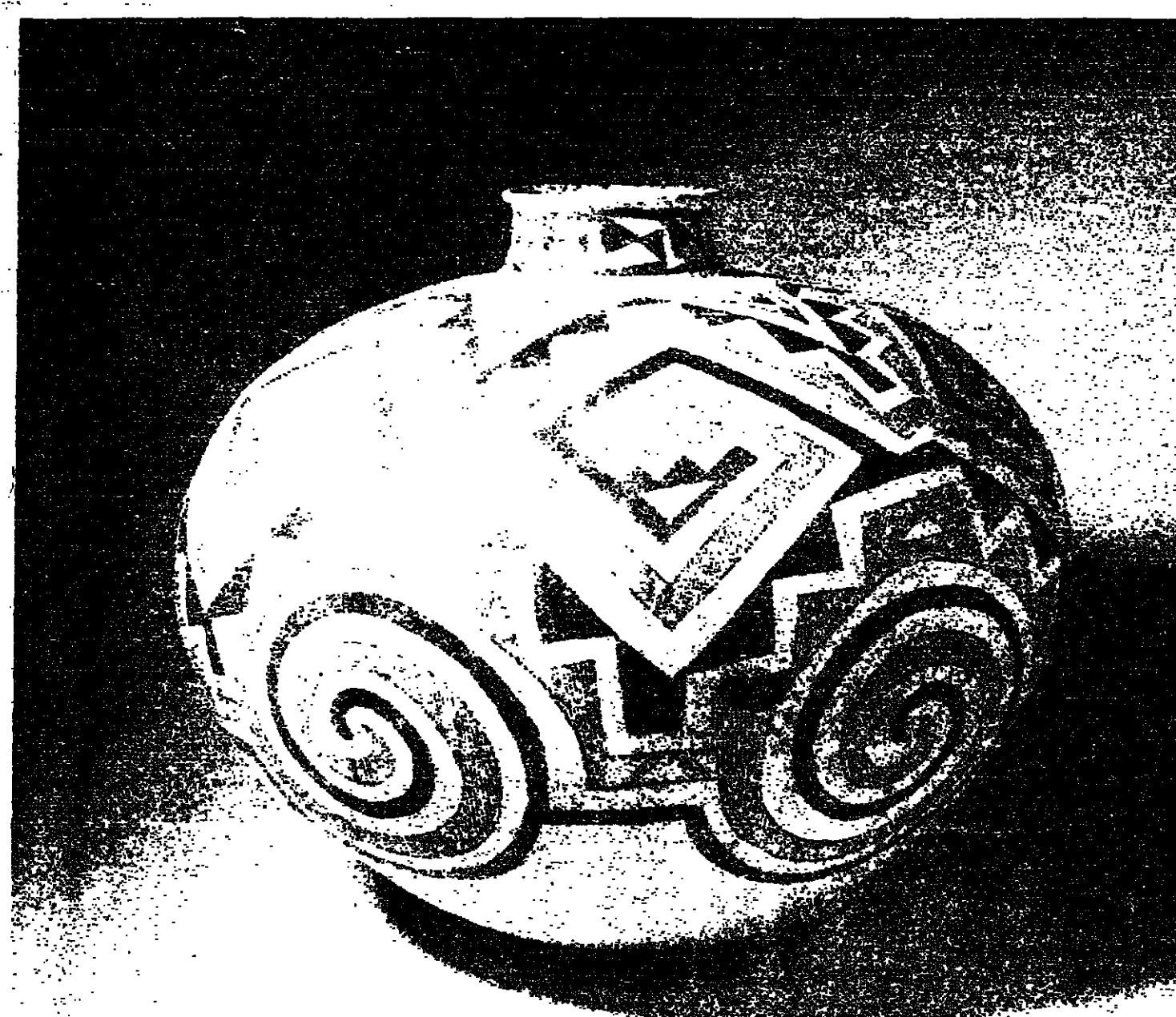
Dr. Herscher, who discussed national and international laws against looting, concluded that making the practice socially unacceptable, and not just writing laws, is the answer for prevention.

George Stuart, staff archaeologist for the National Geographic Society, decried the "age of non-innocence" and the "age of crassness" that fuel the rich artifacts market. "I think it's time," he said, "for a lot of archaeologists to sort of get with it as far as public communication goes."

David Orr described a successful internship programme for Philadelphia high-school students who have worked for the past seven summers on an excavation, saving taxpayers \$180,000. "By creating such archaeological constituencies involving this kind of activity, local pot-hunting decreases," he said.

Prosecution of offenders, too, can be a deterrent to looters, Orr said. He cited a Virginia case in which relic-hunters dug 600 holes in Petersburg National Battlefield, recovering Civil War buttons, bullets, and a bayonet, for which they collected only \$24.56.

The looters were convicted of violating a federal law and received jail sentences. Looting at



This black-on-white pottery jar was made during the high point of the cliff-dwelling Anasazi Indian civilisation of the southwestern United States about A.D. 1100. Largely because of looters' depredations, such intact pieces are extremely rare and valuable. Archaeologists

the battlefield has since ceased, Orr said.

Tight security measures are sometimes the answer, especially in cities. A Philadelphia archaeologist, Michael Parrington, described the excavation of a historic 19th-century black cemetery downtown. Security included a temporary steel structure, an 8-foot chain-link fence, and an electronic alarm system. Nobody bothered the site.

Outsiders see it differently

Describing himself as an "agent provocateur," Paul M. Bator, a University of Chicago law professor and an expert on the international art trade, opened a panel discussion by saying that the conference represented only the view of archaeological preservationists, whereas the perspective of the outside world differs sharply.

agree that public education is an effective way to deter well-intentioned amateur collectors. But exploiters who sell artifacts for huge profits are another matter.

"Destruction is as important, in a sense, as preservation," he said. "That is, if everything were constantly preserved, the inundation of garbage would be such that we couldn't make head or tail of what goes on, and too much information, in the end, is non-information."

Elin C. Danien of the Pennsylvania museum staff said that responsible collectors and art dealers had been invited to present

their views to the symposium but declined. She said they were saying, in effect, that "they're tired of getting their heads knocked off."

"The archaeologists are rather contemptuous of the dealers, that is a fact. And that stings," Bator said. "And the dealers are quite snooty about the archaeologists, and that stings, too. And so in that atmosphere, it's hard to have dialogue."

Egyptians eat more, spend more in month of Ramadan

By Munir Bowelt
Reuters

CAIRO — Egypt's Muslims are ignoring health warnings and eating more, not less, during the holy fasting month of Ramadan. The holidays of slaughterhouse staff have been cancelled to meet an expected 50 per cent increase in meat consumption during Ramadan, which started in Egypt on April 29.

The Egyptian Gazette said stockpiling of food ahead of Ramadan had forced up basic food prices.

More than 45 million of Egypt's 50 million people are Muslims and nearly all observe the traditional fast from dawn to dusk, taking no food or drink. When they break their fast at *iftar*, after sunset, they have a traditional feast and usually eat to excess.

Doctors have delivered warnings in the media that eating too

much is a health hazard. Newspaper columnists counsel restraint.

Many Egyptians appear to agree in theory but are wedded in practice to traditional celebrations of Ramadan.

"The habit of having more food has become part of our life," says Zainab Al Leithy, a housewife with five children. "I can never offer ordinary beans in *iftar* for my family."

Even poor families who might normally eat meat for dinner only two or three times a month will do their best to include meat or poultry in their *iftar* every night.

Dried dates, fruit and nuts — often bought with scarce hard currency — are a must for breaking the fast. "We usually invite all family members, even those who are married," Leithy told Reuters. "Certainly they expect a delicious and nutritious *iftar* after a long day's work."

Despite her pride in keeping a good table, she admitted Ramadan indulgence was a bad habit she hoped to get rid of — starting next year.

"No-one has succeeded in persuading the Egyptian housewife to cook just for 10 people if there were 10 people around. She would rather cook for 10 if there were five around," wrote columnist Anis Mansour in the daily *Al Ahram*.

He called this "showing off, false hospitality and subversion of our economy."

Mohammad Tawfeek, a factory accountant, blames over-eating on state television, saying they lay more stress on entertainment than religion in Ramadan.

"People will go on celebrating Ramadan the wrong way unless a nationwide campaign is made to educate them. They must be told that in Islam fasting is meant to help the soul, not the body," he said.

Illiteracy in North Yemen still high

By Abdul Rahman Haidari
Reuters

SANAA — North Yemen has one of the Arab World's highest rates of illiteracy despite a quarter-century of programmes to teach people to read and write and do basic mathematics.

Officials said traditional Arab attitudes towards women — almost all of whom are still illiterate — shortage of funds and the huge number of Yemeni men working abroad were main reasons behind the high rate.

They also blamed the national habit of chewing leaves of the *qat* shrub, a stimulant normally taken during afternoon when anti-illiteracy classes are held in this Red Sea country on the southern Arabian Peninsula.

A United Nations report said that in 1985, 23 years after the overthrow of a medieval-type monarchy and the start of illiteracy eradication programmes, 96.9 per cent of women and 73.1 per cent of men were still illiterate.

They combined to form 86.3 per cent of the population, down

from 97.5 per cent at the republic's founding in 1962. But the figure demonstrated the enormity of the problem still facing the country.

The government started a new drive in 1981 designed to wipe out illiteracy by 1993. The education ministry, which supervises the programme, offers free two-hour lessons in afternoons in schools and other social centres.

But a U.N. report in 1983 said only 100,000 adults out of a total population of about nine million were attending.

Educated North Yemenis help out with the classes, as well as foreigners — mainly Egyptians and Sudanese — living in the country.

One social attitude blocking the quick eradication of illiteracy is the prevalent view of women, which can change only with the spread of literacy.

Most North Yemenis believe women, in a country where some have as many as 15 children, should stay at home and take care of them rather than attend illiteracy classes.

Another problem is that North Yemen is a poor country, heavily dependent in aid from Saudi Arabia and assistance from Arab and international financial organisations. Thus, it has trouble financing programmes.

One source of income is remittances from the country's two million workers employed abroad. While their money is welcome, they are part of the illiteracy problem since most of them cannot read or write and are employed in menial tasks.

A North Yemeni official said the workers abroad were an important reason why the country's anti-illiteracy programmes could not succeed quickly.

"There are more than two million people working abroad and most of them have not been able to receive sufficient education to make them literate," he told Reuters.

"They represent nearly a quarter of the population and cannot have access to our programmes so that gives one reason for no quick eradication of illiteracy."

Japanese lose face — but not much business

How will the Japanese react to the latest contortions in the world of international sanctions and possible reprisals against protectionism? Carla Rapoport assesses the likely impact on Tokyo.

TOKYO — President Ronald Reagan's punitive tariffs on Japanese exports have caused a loss of face in Japan, but not a big loss of business.

While government officials continued feverish attempts to persuade the Americans to rescind the recent action, industry executives were breathing a sigh of relief that the sanctions were not more punitive.

Last month, the U.S. announced the imposition of 100 per cent tariffs on \$300 million of Japanese colour televisions, desktop and small personal computers and power tools. The Ministry of International Trade and Industry (MITI) says only about 20 Japanese companies would be affected by sanctions.

The hardest-hit will be personal computer makers, but all these companies are well diversified and leaders among Japan's huge electronics industry. As such they will be able to bear the loss of exports without too much discomfort.

As for power tools — a joker in the pack as the U.S.-Japan row is over semiconductor trade — the industry is not overly concerned. The industry leader, Makita Elec-

trics, says about 5 per cent of its U.S. exports will be affected, valued at about \$10 million.

A broker for one of Japan's leading securities houses said: "It's a flea-bite on the back of Japanese industry. The main embarrassment is a political one."

Japanese industry leaders helped to fan the flames of the dispute, hitting back at the Americans for the sanctions, imposed because of the breakdown of an eight-month-old semiconductor trade pact between the countries.

Sony's outspoken chairman, Mr. Akio Morita, for example, said that Japanese resentment provoked by the trade conflict "may be based, in part, on the feelings that American ... criticisms do not arise from legitimate grievances, but more from an increasing tendency to blame Japan for problems of America's own making."

Mr. Morita called on the U.S. to cut its budget deficit and "end the cancerous money game with its rampant mergers and acquisitions that force its businessmen to think in the short term and sap productivity."

Mr. Shoichi Saba, chairman of

Toshiba as well as the Electronics Industries Association of Japan, said that U.S. companies should make more aggressive efforts to penetrate the Japanese market.

He defended the heavy investment that Japan continues to make in the semiconductor industry, saying that it leads to an expansion in demand, in turn "fueling further technological advancement and even lower prices."

This argument is at the crux of the debate between the two countries. American chipmakers claim that heavy Japanese investment in chip production creates overcapacity and leads to dumping, that is selling chips below production costs. The Japanese reply that this is merely taking a long-term view of the industry's potential for growth.

Some industry executives continued to criticise the Americans for producing inferior goods. A manager at Hitachi, for example, said: "We would like to purchase more foreign materials (semiconductors, etc.) but the foreigners must meet our requirements for specification, delivery times, and quality," implying that these conditions were not being met.

In the meantime, MITI officials are hard at work on finding a

solution to the bubbling trade row. The trade minister, Hajime Tamura, said that Japan had "decided against taking any immediate retaliatory move."

Talks in Tokyo with U.S. trade representative Mr. Clayton Yeutter will have the aim of eliminating the tariffs at the earliest possible date.

Mr. Tamura told reporters the U.S. move was a political tactic aimed at curbing protectionist pressure in Congress. Now that the move has been taken, he believes his talks with Mr. Yeutter have a reasonable chance of success. So far, Mr. Yeutter has declined to comment on the issue.

Mr. Makoto Kuroda, deputy trade minister and MITI's chief negotiator, is more pessimistic. He believes it will be impossible for Washington to repeal the measures without clear-cut evidence, such as an improvement in trade figures.

Failing an immediate solution, Japan's hopes will be pinned on the prime minister, Mr. Yasuhiro Nakasone, who will visit Washington for talks. He would be crossing the Pacific "with a heavy burden on his back" — *Financial Times* feature.

Rare pupfish fights for survival in fathomless Death Valley hole

By Scott Thybony
National Geographic

ASH MEADOWS, Nevada — The edge of Death Valley is an unlikely place for a legal battle over endangered fish or an underwater search for lost divers.

Yet, these happened at Devils Hole, a desert spring where divers continue to study ancient climates and vandals still threaten a rare fish that has survived in the desert for more than 10,000 years.

The terrain surrounding the spring is bare and scorched, receiving less than 3 inches of rain a year. It's the type of lunar landscape where movie producers like to shoot on-location science-fiction films. Except for a scattering of miners and personnel from a nearby brothel, few people find a reason to live in the region.

Divers never returned

The water at Devils Hole is about 93 degrees Fahrenheit at the surface and increases in temperature with depth. It comes from deep within an aquifer underlying large portions of the desert. Its warm water once served as a Saturday-night bathtub for local miners.

In 1965, three men dived into the flooded cave to explore. Only one returned. An underwater rescue team searched the entire cave

system to a depth of 300 feet. No sign of the divers was ever found.

At that depth a small, slanting passageway continued. One rescue diver, Jim Houtz, followed this to 315 feet, at that time the deepest cave dive on record. The passage opened into a vast chamber. Houtz shined a half-million-candlepower light into the depths and saw nothing — no sides, no bottom — even though the water was crystal clear.

"Maybe it was a big prehistoric fish that got them," said Bill Karras, a rescue diver. He was only half joking.

A remnant species of Pleistocene fish does live on a submerged rock ledge near the surface of Devils Hole. But these minnow-like pupfish are less than an inch long. They have evolved from ancestors stranded there sometime near the end of the Ice Age. No one knows exactly when. Since 1983 a research team has been making periodic dives in the cave to find out.

From rock samples collected underwater they've found evidence of climatic change reaching back thousands of years. "The record is excellent," says Ike Winograd, team leader from the U.S. Geological Survey. "We've developed a 300,000-year record already."

Two research divers work together gathering rock specimens that are analysed and dated

in the lab. These indicate that the water table has dropped steadily over time, leaving the pupfish not exactly high and dry, but effectively cut off from other water sources.

Isolated for Millennia

The pupfish have survived in isolation for thousands of years only to be threatened in recent times by the West's growing thirst. When pumping by local ranchers threatened to dry up the pupfish habitat, conservationists filed suit. A series of heated court cases finally ended in a Supreme Court decision in 1976. The pupfish won; the court ordered the ranchers to curtail their pumping.

This ended the immediate threat to the pupfish. But soon a developer began buying up land near Devils Hole with an eye to subdividing it. The Nature Conservancy stepped in and bought the property in 1984, then resold it to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Devils Hole and the adjacent springs are now protected in the Ash Meadows National Wildlife Refuge. The site is closed to the public.

With less pumping, the water table has rebounded, allowing the pupfish population to boom in its own small way. A recent count put the population at 460 fish, up from about 150 when the water table was low.

A wildlife refuge should have ended the threat to the pupfish once and for all. But vandals continue to break through the chain link fence surrounding Devils Hole, sometimes tossing in fireworks. Ironically, the Fish and Wildlife Service, responsible for maintaining the pupfish habitat, is faced with having to pump the groundwater or lose its rights to it.

Twist of Nevada law

"Nevada state law requires that if you have a right to any water, you must use that water or lose that right," says Don Sada, an endangered-species coordinator for the Fish and Wildlife Service. "Now in Nevada that law takes on a little bit of a twist. Nevada does not recognise wildlife as a beneficial use of water like many states do."

The Fish and Wildlife Service finds itself in a position in which it must pump water from existing wells to areas where it will have a beneficial, recreational use. The trick is to do it without harming the pupfish. If the water is left unused, others can file a claim, and the cycle of pumping followed by the fall of the water table could begin again.

"We're going to have to be inventive about how we use those groundwaters," says Sada.

Randa Habib's

Fair treatment, please

YES, people are still talking about the work permits for foreigners. Fees were imposed by the government; most as high as JD 150. And although many people voiced complaints about the whole matter, nothing has changed.

The government's position is clear in that matter: the increasing number of foreigners working in Jordan are starting to create a problem for the country, mainly due to the large amounts of money being transferred by them outside Jordan. But what about foreign working women, married to Jordanians, who keep their original nationality for other reasons? Those ladies, who represent a discriminated-against minority, are treated exactly like foreigners who work in Jordan and leave after two years or so, although the money these women earn is spent in Jordan.

An official at the Ministry of Labour explained that foreign working women married to Jordanians are treated like other foreigners working in Jordan and that no exception is made in their case because it would mean that the Ministry of Labour would have to enter into complicated verifications of who is married to a Jordanian and who is not.

Those complicated verifications the official must have been referring to cannot be more than having to look at the residence permit, where it states clearly that the person "is married to a Jordanian."

The government should give those women a second chance, because they are part of the Jordanian society and should be entitled to a much fairer treatment from their country of adoption. After all, the wife of a Jordanian is by law considered a Jordanian citizen.

Siege camp doctor describes her ordeal

By Paul Brown

Dr. PAULINE Cutting had two children die in her arms for want of antibiotics during her morning hospital rounds after a shell went off in the Palestinian refugee camp in the middle of a group of seven people.

Although faint with hunger she shared a saw with Palestinian surgeons to operate on the victims of the shelling.

Describing conditions at the Bourj Al Barajneh refugee camp when she returned to Britain with the Scottish nurse, Susan Wighton, she said the worst day was Friday, February 13.

"We only had one operating table but we were almost out of fuel so we had to work on them two by two, using a trolley as an extra table and sharing a saw, only pausing to clean it and pass it along."

Two of the seven people hit by the same shell died before she could operate and five more had limbs amputated. Before she had finished, more shells had fallen on those bringing the wounded to hospital.

"We had no food, and at one point I stopped and asked for a cup of tea. I did not feel I could go on without something."

Dr. Cutting, aged 35, whose weight dropped from eight to six and a half stone during the siege of the camp, said she was not a heroine. The heroes were the children who braved snipers to run through the front lines to bring bread to their families.

A group of four children, the oldest aged 10 and the youngest six, had gone through the Amal militia front line to fetch essential gauze, which was vital. Some had even crawled through the sewers.

She particularly wanted to help two of these children: Bilal, aged seven, who had been shot twice in the chest and in the spine by snipers and was paraplegic, and Azmir aged eight. Both urgently needed help from a spinal unit so that they could realise their potential.

Nurse Susan Wighton, aged 27, displayed a shrapnel wound on her arm. There had not been enough sandbags to close the living room window and she had been hit by shrapnel from a 120 millimetre shell on Guy Fawkes Day. She spent a day in hospital



Dr. Pauline Cutting

before returning to work.

Dr. Cutting, who ate a dog during the siege, said they had tried to reserve food for the wounded but each day children and adults suffering from malnutrition gathered outside the hospital to beg.

Dr. Cutting and nurse Wighton agreed that little was being done to try to solve the problem. Nurse Wighton said that inequality of health care was a shock. She had worked on the West Bank, where the Israeli health service was near-perfect, but there was little or no care for the Arabs.

Dr. Cutting said: "I have learned a lot about the Middle East in the past few months and Britain owes a great debt to the Palestinians. By the Balfour Declaration we helped create the problem. We should do something now to alleviate the suffering of these people."

She said she felt equally for all oppressed people, those who were driven from their homes and those who were persecuted. She felt sorry for all sides in the dispute, although she also felt angry when snipers picked off women and children trying to bring food so that their families would not starve.

Both women said that after a rest at home they wished to return to the camp to help to improve medical standards. The vaccination programme Miss Wighton had originally gone to start had been abandoned during the siege and Dr. Cutting said there was much follow-up surgery on the victims which needed completion — *The Guardian*.

Alysheba wins Kentucky Derby

LOUISVILLE, Kentucky (AP) — Alysheba and Jack Van Berg did what their daddies couldn't do Saturday — win the Kentucky Derby.

Alysheba, whose sire Alydar chased Affirmed to the 1978 triple crown, overcame a rough stretch battle to win the Derby by three-quarters of a length over Bet Twice at Churchill Downs.

In was the first Derby victory in six tries for Van Berg, a 50-year-old Hall of Fame trainer whose late father Marion, only a Hall of Famer, failed in his only Derby bid in 1960.

While this hot, sunny Saturday turned out to be a glorious day for Alysheba and Van Berg, it was a dismal day for trainer Phil Hauswald and jockey Pat Day because favoured Demons Begone was pulled up on the final turn and did not finish.

"He bled pretty severely," Day said. "I could tell going under the

wire the first time that he wasn't the same horse he had been in Arkansas. I knew something was drastically wrong. But I was hoping that the crowd and all the excitement was getting to him and that he would settle down."

Shortly after the race, Demons Begone, who left in a horse ambulance, was pronounced OK by Hauswald.

"The bleeding has stopped," he said.

Both Alysheba and his 32-year-old jockey, Chris McCarron, overcame physical problems in the last year. And they both had to overcome problems with Bet Twice on Saturday.

Just two days after finishing second in the San Felipe Handicap March 22 at Santa Anita,

Alysheba underwent surgery for an entrapped epiglottis, which hampered his breathing. The epiglottis is the flap that keeps food and water from entering the windpipe.

McCarron, riding in his seventh Derby, sustained a severely broken left leg in a five-horse spill Oct. 17, 1986 at Santa Anita.

He returned March 12 as has an eight-ounce stainless steel plate in his leg.

McCarron moved Alysheba into contention nearing the quarter pole, then guided him down the centre of the track in a typical Derby cavalry charge finish.

"The colt survived some stumbling at the eighth pole," McCarron said.

McCarron said Alysheba brushed two times with Bet Twice in the homestretch.

The first time, McCarron said, Bet Twice "ducked out in front

me, and I thought I was gone." The second time, Bet Twice "stuck out right dead in front of me, and I clipped his heels. This horse (Alysheba) is a real competitor to get up on his feet again and go on to win the race."

Alysheba kept his balance and took the lead from Bet Twice with about 70 metres to go.

"I felt if that horse had beaten me, he would have come down," McCarron said of Bet Twice.

"Come on wire," McCarron said he remembered shouting near the finish, then suddenly the wire was there. And Alysheba, Van Berg and McCarron were part of racing lore as winners of the Kentucky Derby for the first time.

Alysheba's victory also was tied to a past Derby. He is owned by Dorothy Scharbauer and her daughter, Pamela. Mrs. Scharbauer's father, Fred Turner, won the 1959 Derby with Tomy Lee.

Mansell wins Italian race

IMOLA, Italy (AP) — Britain's Nigel Mansell drove his Williams-Honda car to victory in Sunday's San Marino Grand Prix and took a provisional lead in the world Formula-One Championship with 10 points.

His eighth Grand Prix victory at the Dino Ferrari Autodrome of Imola gave the 32-year-old British driver a one-point edge over world champion Alain Prost of France, who was stopped by engine problems in the initial stages of the race, thus missing a possible record-equaling 27th Grand Prix triumph.

Mansell, driving the only Williams-Honda in the race edged by 27.5 seconds Brazilian ace Ayrton Senna, who placed second in a Lotus-Honda.

Italy's Michele Alboreto came third in a Ferrari, to the cheers of 110,000 fans.

Alboreto made the podium trailing Mansell by 39.1 seconds. The winner covered 59 laps for

a total distance of 295.2 kilometres in one hour, 31:24.076 minutes at an average speed of 193.807 kilometres per hour.

Sweden's Stefan Johansson finished fourth in a McLaren-Teg, one minute behind Mansell and the last of the top finishers to complete the full distance.

Britain's Martin Brundle, who placed fifth in a Zakspeed, and Japan's Satoru Nakajima, sixth in a second Lotus-Honda, both were lapped twice.

Mansell, only sixth in the opening championship race held in Brazil last month, took over the lead from Senna in the second lap, lost it briefly to Alboreto before the half-mark when he stopped to change tires and regained first place in the 27th lap. He then drove at ease to victory, with an advantage over the closest opponents ranging between 19 to 27 seconds.

Mansell's last victory was the Portugal Grand Prix on Sept. 21.

SPORTS IN BRIEF

Aouita easily wins 5,000 metres

SHIZUOKA, Japan (R) — World record holder Said Aouita of Morocco easily won the men's 5,000 metres in 13 minutes 19.97 seconds at an international athletics meeting here on Sunday. But the 26-year-old Aouita, who hopes to better his record this year, was about 19 seconds slower than his world mark of 13:00.40 set in 1985. Los Angeles Olympic gold medalist Doña Melaine of Romania won the women's 1,000 metres in two minutes 36.94 seconds. Other winners included Larry Myricks of the United States, who won the men's 100 metres in 10.24 seconds and the long jump with a leap of 8.61 metres. Aouita is among a strong foreign contingent entered for Tokyo's International Athletics meeting next Sunday.

Italian wins motorcycling race

BUDAPEST (AP) — Italy's Virginio Ferrari won the second race in this year's formula-1 World Motorcycle Speedway Tournament Sunday, clocking one hour, 21 minutes 39.31 seconds. It was the first formula-1 victory for Ferrari, 35, riding a Bimota in the first motorcycle competition on Budapest's Hungaroring Track. Second was Italy's David Tardozzi, also on a Bimota, in 1:21:58.58, and third was Sweden's Anders Anderson on a Suzuki, with 1:22:03.70. World title holder Joey Dunlop of Ireland was eighth in 1:23:03.82. Anderson got off to a fast start and led until the fourth lap, when Britain's Paul Iddon took over. Engine trouble forced him out of the race after 13 laps, when Ferrari took over.

Clarke wins WBC flyweight title

KINGSTON, Jamaica (AP) — Richard Clarke of Jamaica defeated Jimmy Fernandez of Mexico by decision Friday night to take the newly created World Boxing Council (WBC) flyweight title. The 24-year-old Clarke used punishing left and right hands to build up an early lead over the Mexican, who suffered a cut under one eye in the seventh round. All of the scoring cards favoured Clarke at the end of the 12-round fight staged at National Arena in Kingston. Referee Harry Cores of Aruba scored the fight 119 to 110, judge George St. Andre of Trinidad and Tobago 119 to 111 and judge Vincent Fenton of Jamaica 119 to 111. With the win, Clarke improved his record to 15-1. The loss pushed Fernandez's record back to 49-8.

UEFA bans Albanian soccer player

ZURICH (R) — Albanian under-21 player Asmir Ramadani has been banned for 11 years from all European club competitions and national representative matches, the European Football Union (UEFA) announced Sunday. European soccer's governing body said in a press release following a disciplinary committee meeting here that it was imposing the ban, to last until July 31, 1998, for Ramadani's "exceptionally violent behaviour" in a European under-21 championship game against Romania on March 24. UEFA also announced suspensions on other players for various infringements.

Egypt's National beats Leopards of Kenya

CAIRO (R) — Egypt's National has trounced Leopards of Kenya 6-0 (halftime 4-0) in the second round, first leg of the African Champions' Cup and made almost certain of a place in the quarter finals. The two teams play the second leg in Kenya in two weeks. National, three times winners of the African Cup Winners' Cup, put on a powerful attacking performance to win by a high score and make the away match a matter of routine. Striker Mustapha Abdou sent a long cross behind three defenders inside the box to find Ayman Shawki who put the ball home only three minutes after the match started. Egypt's veteran striker Mahmoud Khatib, 34, hit a hat-trick and made a successful comeback after a long leg injury.

Becker returns as Tournament of Champions tennis top seed

NEW YORK (R) — To the organisers' relief and New York tennis fans' delight, Wimbledon Champion Boris Becker will play in the Tournament of Champions beginning at Forest Hills on Monday.

The 19-year-old West German's participation in the \$615,000 Tournament had been in doubt because of a nagging illness described as an intestinal virus.

It has been a rocky year for Becker, marred by early elimination from the Australian Open, a split with his long-time coach Guenter Bosch, uncharacteristic on-court tantrums, and the mysterious illness that forced him out of the International Players' Championships in February.

He also missed the elite eight-man WCT finals in Dallas last month because of what his father said was exhaustion.

"He's in New York and he's practising," said tournament director Marty Rotberg of his top seed after seeing the deadline for withdrawing from the event pass without incident during Friday's draw.

Becker, ranked second in the world, takes on Mexican Davis Cup player Francisco Maciel in the first round of the week-long tournament, in which he will be attempting to rediscover his best form in time to defend his Wimbledon title in seven weeks' time.

Becker's main competition for the \$80,000 top prize and 450 Grand Prix points — the most points awarded for any one-week tournament — is likely to come from second seed and defending champion Yannick Noah.

World number one Ivan Lendl of Czechoslovakia heads a list of notable absentees, including Swedes Mats Wilander and Australian Open Champion Stefan Edberg who have chosen to remain in Europe to prepare for the French Open beginning on May 25.

Noah, the French number one and world number six, will open his title defence against Jaime Yzaga of Peru, one of a clutch of Latin American clay court specialists appearing at the famed Horseshoe Stadium of the West Side Tennis Club.

The har-tru surface, though slightly faster and harder than red clay, plays more like clay than like a hard court and has attracted the likes of Martin Jaite, seeded sixth.

Third-seeded American Tim Mayotte, who is having one of the best years of his career and was impressive in winning titles in Philadelphia and Chicago, and fifth-seeded Australian Pat Cash, the Australian Open runner-up, will be looking to halt the defending champion's run to the final.

Pohl advances in Las Vegas tournament

LAS VEGAS (AP) — Dan Pohl came from nine shots off the pace with a bogey-free 65 Saturday and muscled his way into a 4-way tie for the lead after three rounds of the \$1.3 million Las Vegas Invitational.

Pohl, fresh from a 16-day layoff, completed three rounds — one each over three desert resort courses — in 205, 11 shots under par.

He left the Desert Inn Country Club without knowing he was tied for the lead going into the final round of the chase for the \$225,000 first prize.

Hal Sutton, playing at Spanish Trail, was three shots ahead of the field at one point, but 4-putted from 35 feet for a double bogey on the 15th hole.

He was still one in front when Pohl finished play.

But Sutton gave back another shot when he dumped his second shot in the water on the 18th and dropped back into a tie with Pohl, Rookie Ken Perry and Scotland's Ken Brown.

It also set up a sizeable traffic jam in the struggle for the biggest prize to date on the American tour. Ten men are within two shots of the top.

But Australia's Greg Norman, the defending champion, is not among them.

"A dumb mistake," Norman fumed after he hit into the water on the 18th hole the Las Vegas Country Club.

Norman was 8-under for the tournament at the time and figured he needed to get to nine to have a chance to make a successful defence of his title.

But his second shot caught the pond on the par-5 finishing hole, and he wound up with a bogey for a 67 that left him at 209, four shots back.

"I made a dumb mistake, so I deserve a dumb bogey," he said. "Four shots is too much to make up."

Sutton's last-hole lapse left him with a round of 72. Brown had a 70 at Spanish Trail and Perry shot 70 at the Desert Inn.

A single stroke back at 206 were former champion Curtis Strange, Andy Magee and South African David Frost.

Lendl overwhelms jaded Mecir

HAMBURG, West Germany (R) — World number one Ivan Lendl of Czechoslovakia won his first tennis title of the year almost without breaking sweat against his jaded compatriot Miloslav Mecir in the West German Open final Sunday.

Lendl won 6-1, 6-3, 6-3 to secure his first Grand Prix tournament victory since beating Mecir to win the U.S. Open last September.

Though Lendl was in superb form and played almost flawless tennis, the ease of his win was largely due to the almost total lack of resistance offered by world number five Mecir in a match lasting two hours 18 minutes.

"Milos just played horrible in my opinion," Lendl said afterwards. "He didn't do anything right and wasn't able to get over it. I know how that feels—I have

been through it. Maybe he didn't sleep well, maybe he didn't feel well. I don't know what it was. I would like to think it was my game but if I said that I would be lying."

Mecir, with four titles already this year and playing in his sixth final, could not find the timing to play the well-disguised angled drives which had taken him into the final without the loss of a set.

At flushing meadow, Mecir, badly tired after a five-set semi-final against West German Boris Becker, managed to win just six games.

Looking equally off-colour, he managed only one more and gave Lendl a welcome revenge for Mecir's straight sets victory over him the last time they met — in last month's final of the International Players' Championships in Key Biscayne.

Since then Lendl has had

arthroscopic surgery on a knee injury but he looked well on the way to getting back to his best this week as he came from the brink of defeat to beat Thierry Tulasne of France and Kent Carlsson of Sweden in his previous two matches.

"My performances this week have given me great satisfaction," he said. "The fighting spirit I showed was very important. I feel mentally strong and physically strong. I wanted to see if I was in shape already and I learned a lot. Now I just need more matches, the more the better for me."

Mecir said Lendl had played too well for him. "I'm not that disappointed. I would have been if the match had been closer but it just wasn't one of my days."

Lendl was playing his first tournament of the year on clay, the surface on which he defends his French Open title this month

E. Germans sweep places in race walking

NEW YORK (AP) — Ronald Weigel led a well-conditioned and tactically prepared East German team to an unprecedented sweep of the first three places in record time in the 50-kilometre race walking event in the IAAF Race Walking World Cup Saturday.

The 27-year-old Weigel, owner of the two fastest 50-kilometre times in history, was clocked in 3 hours, 42 minutes, 26 seconds, for the 2,500-metre loop course through Central Park.

That shattered the previous race record of 3:43:36 set in 1979 by Martin Bermudez of Mexico.

Weigel's teammates, 1985 champion Hartwig Gauder and Dietmar Meisch, also finished under the old record. Gauder, ranked no. 1 in the world the past two years, placed second in 3:42:52 and Meisch was third in 3:43:14.

However, Meisch, who lowered his personal best by 19 seconds, nearly was disqualified.

After the race, Soviet judge Vladimir Samoteyov told officials of the International Amateur Athletic Federation (IAAF), the world governing body for race walking and track and field, that he had issued a penalty card along the course against Meisch.

It was the third penalty card against Meisch — an assessment

that generally results in automatic disqualification. However, Samoteyov said he was unable to relay the disqualification notice to race officials during the competition, and Meisch completed the race without being escorted off the course.

After much discussion among race officials, the race results were upheld.

It was the first time in a major international race walking competition that three competitors from the same country had finished 1-2-3.

The East Germans were followed by four Soviet walkers in the biennial team competition in which the first three finishers from each team count in the scoring.

Vyacheslav Ivanenko, competing in only his third 31.1-mile race walking event, was the first Soviet finisher, in 3:44:02. He was followed by 1985 runner-up Andrei Perlov in 3:45:09, Valery Sutsnov in the same time, and Aleksandr Potashov in 3:46:28.

Bermudez finished eighth in 3:51:49 and was followed by three Italian walkers, led by Alessandro Bellucci, the 1981 bronze medalist, in 3:52:29.

"This was a dream for us," said Weigel, a journalism student from Potsdam who improved his world best from 3:38:31 to 3:38:17 last year. "We dreamed about finishing 1-2-3, but never thought we'd pull it off against the Soviet team. Our coach (Siegfried Herrman, a former standout middle-distance runner) prepared

us well for this."

Weigel said that the East German team had trained for four weeks in the high altitude of Mexico for the demanding event, before spending about two weeks in New York, adjusting to the undulating course.

"For long races, this (training) was very good," said Weigel, who also holds the world indoor best for the 20-kilometre walk. "We also had a tactic, and this tactic was very good."

The East Germans' tactic obviously was to stay close to the Soviet walkers for the slowly paced early stages of the race, before taking command late. It worked perfectly.

This was the 13th time the event was held. It attracted 136 starters from 35 nations, both record numbers. Eighty-two finished.

Women's race walk

Olga Krishtop of the Soviet Union was declared the winner of the women's 10-kilometre race walk in the IAAF Race Walking World Cup Sunday after first-place finisher Yan Hong of China was disqualified.

Krishtop and the next four legal finishers all went under the previous world best of 44 seconds set by Yan in 1985, with the winner being clocked in 43:22.

Irina Strakhova of the Soviet Union was second in 43:35 and was followed by Jin Bingjie of China in 43:45, Kerry Saxby of Australia in 43:57 and Elena Nikolayeva of the Soviet Union in 43:57.

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IPU conference urges end to U.S. contra funds

MANAGUA (R) — Politicians from 90 countries at an Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) conference have urged the United States to stop trying to oust Nicaragua's government.

The conference also adopted resolutions calling for increased efforts to stop the Iran-Iraq war, the speedy convening of an international peace conference on the Middle East and for fairer international trade measures.

The week-long conference, which ended Saturday, unanimously approved a resolution advocating peaceful solutions to conflicts in Central America, where three out of six countries are fighting insurgencies.

"Nicaragua continued to be the subject of an aggressive and illegal policy... affecting the national sovereignty and dignity of the country and violating the obligations set by international law," said the resolution, referring to U.S. economic and military pressures on Nicaragua's Sandinista government.

It appealed to the United States to comply with a June 1986 ruling of the International Court of Justice outlawing Washington's support for anti-Sandinista rebels as well as its trade embargo against Nicaragua.

The IPU meets twice a year to

discuss ways of smoothing international disputes, but has no way of enforcing its resolutions.

On trade issues, the IPU lamented that developing countries faced "an extremely unfavourable international economic environment" and said subsidised trading practices of industrialised countries were a major cause of the crisis.

The IPU called on parliaments and governments of all countries to do "everything they can" to bring about an international peace conference on the Middle East.

The resolution on Central America, whose draft version was introduced by Spain, expressed "sympathy and solidarity" with peace efforts of the four-nation Contadora group of Mexico, Venezuela, Colombia and Panama.

Meanwhile Nicaraguan rebel leaders met in Miami Saturday to consider a plan aimed at radically restructuring their U.S.-backed alliance and broadening its base of political support, rebel officials said.

The general assembly of the United Nicaraguan Opposition (UNO), the rebel umbrella group, convened to decide on a proposal to nearly double its membership to 54, giving moderate factions a larger role, rebel officials said.

UNO spokeswoman Marta Sacasa said the assembly was also expected to decide on a proposal to expand the alliance's three-man directorate to at least seven members.

Under the plan, the alliance would add representatives from the Costa Rica-based southern opposition bloc and from the Indian and black minorities of Nicaragua's Atlantic coast, rebel officials said.

The 28-member assembly was also scheduled to discuss proposals for unifying rival rebel armies into a single fighting force and for renaming the alliance the Nicaraguan Democratic Resistance, officials said.

The stepped-up drive to reorganise UNO comes less than two months after the House Representatives voted to delay delivery of the final \$40 million in U.S. assistance to the rebels while a full accounting is made of how previous aid was spent.

Salvadorean commander says 18 killed in rebel attack

SAN FRANCISCO GOTERA, El Salvador (AP) — The commander of a military base attacked by leftist rebels says 18 people died in the fighting, but government troops prevented the rebels from seizing the base.

Col. Mauricio Vargas said 10 soldiers, seven guerrillas and a civilian woman were killed Saturday as about 200 rebels tried to take over the base at San Francisco Gotera, 160 kilometres east of San Salvador.

Col. Vargas also reported that 14 civilians and 14 soldiers were wounded in the fighting.

The base of the 4th Military Detachment is in the centre of San Francisco Gotera, a town in north eastern Morazan province considered a rebel stronghold.

Police said the guerrillas attacked the base, military outposts on the edge of town and the national police headquarters.

Gen. Adolfo Blandon, head of the army chiefs-of-staff, gave a different figure on the number of guerrillas slain. He said the bodies of 12 guerrillas were found in the town and its outskirts.

A rebel communiqué, sent to the Associated Press in San Salvador, claimed 36 soldiers were killed and 42 wounded, with no guerrilla casualties. None of the casualty figures could be independently confirmed.

Col. Vargas said the attack caused more damage to homes than to military installations.

But the rebel message said the attack "partially destroyed" the army base and badly damaged the police headquarters.

It also said the guerrillas destroyed several military posts in the town and outlying areas, three military trucks, a tank, three 120mm artillery pieces and a helicopter landing field.

The rebels' Radio Venceremos said the attack was carried out by three battalions of the Farabundo Martí National Liberation Front.

A unit of support weapons that used conventional arms and artillery made by the people.

U.S. finds no sign of purported Soviet sub

HONOLULU (R) — A distress call from a vessel identifying itself as a Soviet submarine off the California coast sent U.S. ships and aircraft searching the Pacific for five hours, but the navy said no ship was found.

The Coast Guard received a radio message on an emergency frequency this morning from a man who said he was on board a disabled Soviet submarine 112 kilometres south west of San Diego, Calif. Coast Guard and navy ships sped to the scene but found no signs of an endangered vessel in the area.

"All we can tell you is that there are no Soviet submarines that we know anything about in that area and we make a living monitoring Soviet submarines," said Lieutenant Commander Chuck Connor, public affairs officer of the U.S. Third Fleet in

Honolulu, which was handling all queries on the incident.

He said a thorough search was carried out by air and sea and "no distress vessels of any description were found."

A Soviet intelligence-gathering ship operating in the area reported it was in no danger and knew of no other vessels of any flag in the area that could be in trouble, Connor said.

Coast Guard Commander Bob Belote said earlier in San Diego that a Falcon jet, a helicopter and a coast guard cutter were joined by navy units in the search within an hour of receiving the call.

He said a man on a vessel that he said was the Soviet submarine Drenava, with the spelling of the name derived phonetically, called the Coast Guard on an emergency frequency at 7:54 a.m. (1454 GMT).

Pope condemns Nazis, beatifies Jesuit priest

MUNICH, West Germany (AP) — Pope John Paul II, capping four days of repeated anti-Nazi condemnations, on Sunday beatified a Jesuit priest who defied a preaching ban issued by Adolf Hitler's Third Reich.

The Roman Catholic leader has spent much of his trip to West Germany denouncing Nazi atrocities and defending the conduct of German Catholic bishops and the Vatican under Hitler's dictatorship.

More than 85,000 people filled Munich's Olympic Stadium under cloudy skies Sunday for the beatification mass for the Rev. Rupert Mayer.

Mayer, whose craggy face and encouragement were known to thousands of Bavarians, remained an outspoken foe of the Nazis even after his arrest for violating the preaching ban.

Pope John Paul received long rounds of applause as he was driven in the specially protected "popemobile" into the stadium in this southern German state, which is 70 per cent Catholic.

The 66-year-old Pontiff, wearing a resplendent gold-coloured robe and miter, called Mayer "an incorruptible witness to the

truth" and said the priest "openly opposed the false prophets of those years" 1933 to 1945.

"Father Mayer found himself increasingly confronted by anti-religious and anti-church currents in an atmosphere of mockery and hatred of Christ and the church, an atmosphere which demanded ever more courage to profess the Catholic faith," Pope John Paul said.

In speaking of Mayer, the Pope said that the rights of humans can only be respected by those who respect what he called "God's rights."

Mayer was jailed in 1937 for defying a government edict not to preach. He was released from prison the following year but was jailed again in 1939 and sent to the Nazi concentration camp at Sachsenhausen, in what is now East Germany.

In 1940, with his health failing and the Nazis worried that his death would make him a martyr, Mayer was put under house arrest in the Ettel Monastery in Bavaria.

He was freed by American troops on May 6, 1945. Mayer died six months later, while saying mass.

Former Dominican leader seeks asylum

SANTO DOMINGO, Dominican Republic (AP) — Former President Salvador Jorge Blanco, accused of corruption in office and holed up in the Venezuelan ambassador's residence, is not a victim of political persecution as he claims, a government official says.

"Our position is that the government has not pressured Jorge Blanco in any way," Foreign Minister Donald Reid Cabral said Saturday.

Since Thursday, Jorge Blanco has been staying with his family in the residence of Venezuelan Ambassador Abel Clavijo Ostos

to avoid arrest.

Marino Vinicio Castillo, a private attorney, has accused the ex-president of taking illegal commissions of \$3.5 million on the purchase of \$35 million worth of military vehicles and equipment during his last two years in office.

Jorge Blanco has asked for asylum in Venezuela, saying he can't get a fair trial in the Dominican Republic. A decision by Venezuela likely won't be made for several weeks, Foreign Minister Reid Cabral said.

An aide to Dominican Republic President Joaquín Balaguer

said Mr. Jorge Blanco met with the president several times in the past eight months.

Mr. Jorge Blanco chose not to seek re-election last May and passed on political power to Mr. Balaguer in August.

Mr. Vinicio Castillo charges that Mr. Jorge Blanco and several businessmen and former aides received illegal commissions on purchases of equipment ordered for the military and national police. Much of the equipment was delivered incomplete and substandard, and many orders never arrived, he alleges.

Thailand signs deals to buy Chinese arms

PEKING (R) — Thai Army Commander-in-Chief General Chavalit Yongchaiyudh has signed an agreement in Peking to buy Chinese weapons, Thai diplomatic sources said Sunday.

Military sources in Bangkok said on Friday the deal was expected to involve the purchase of around 30 T-69 tanks, 37-mm anti-aircraft guns, missiles and

ammunition.

Senior Thai army officers had said China would sell the arms at "friendship prices" as low as 10 per cent of their market value, but a diplomat Sunday denied this without giving details.

Chinese weapons were usually far cheaper than the equivalent arms manufactured by other countries, he added.

China and Thailand have increased their military and political ties in recent years, with both countries strongly opposed to Vietnam's occupation of Kampuchea, which borders on Thailand.

The Thai Armed Forces are equipped mainly with U.S.-made weapons.

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China establishes cell bank

PEKING (AP) — China's first cell bank hopes to protect rare species of animals and improve breeding through genetics, the official Xinhua News Agency said Sunday. The cell bank, at the Kunming Zoological Research Institute in southern Yunnan province, stores tissue samples from 70 rare animals at minus 19 degrees Celsius (minus 310 degrees Fahrenheit), the agency said, adding that they could be kept for up to 20 years at this temperature. "Sometimes called a 'frozen zoo,'" the bank is using the latest technique for protecting wildlife, which is currently found in only a few advanced countries," Xinhua said. It said scientists hope to stockpile genetic information in the cells. Genes for certain characteristics that contribute to survival, for example, a thicker pelt or camouflaging colour, could be studied and possibly grafted into future generations of rare species, giving them a better chance of survival. Animal lung, kidney and skin cells are kept at the cell bank, as well as insect cells, said the report.

76 held in anti-forgery operation

GENOVA, Italy (R) — Police in northern Italy have arrested 76 people in an anti-forgery operation and netted fake bank notes with a face value of \$7 million, a spokesman has said. The 76 arrested in raids in Genoa and other northern cities over the past few weeks, had been accused of forgery and involvement in organised crime, the spokesman added. Police said they had not yet found the presses used to print the fake dollars, German marks and Italian lire, but they were thought to be in Milan and the southern region of Calabria, from where the gang was believed to have originated. Police said those arrested included bank clerks, businessmen, insurance brokers and other apparently respectable people under suspicion of having laundered the false money. The raids had also netted two guns, 11 pistols and an unspecified quantity of ammunition.

QE2 passengers compensated

LONDON (AP) — All 1,200 passengers aboard Britain's luxury QE2 liner have been offered a 40 per cent cash refund on their fares when the ship docks in New York on Monday, following a torrent of complaints about problems. The passengers will receive the money by May 27, said Cunard Chairman Alan Kennedy, who is on the voyage and has written to each passenger offering apologies for the troubles. "I am very conscious of the inconvenience and discomfort you suffered at the non-availability of some of the ship's facilities," Mr. Kennedy's letter said. The 67,139-ton liner sailed from Southampton on Thursday after a 179-day refit costing £110 million (\$182 million) in the West German port of Bremerhaven. No British yard could do the job in the timetable laid down by Cunard. But more than 80 passengers' cabins weren't ready; showers, telephones, toilets and television receivers didn't work; some toilets flooded; meals were cold; and restaurants locked, British newspapers have reported. The refund goes to every passenger, not just those who suffered, because many facilities offered in the brochure weren't available, including the swimming pools, cinema and computer learning centre, Cunard said.

Museum's famous cat 'is probably a fake'

NEW YORK (AP) — A 15-inch (38-cm) Egyptian bronze cat, one of the most popular sculptures at the Metropolitan Museum of Art, is probably a modern forgery, according to a published report. Museum officials said the authenticity of the famous feline, which stood for nearly 25 years in the Metropolitan's Egyptian wing, came into question more than five years ago, the New York Times reported in its Thursday edition. The museum has submitted the sculpture to a battery of tests. "Careful technical examination seems to point to modern manufacture," Philippe De Montebello, the director of the Metropolitan Museum, told the Times. "At this stage, there is enough doubt that we don't think any purpose is served by putting it on display and calling it ancient." Museum officials emphasised that while their doubts about the sculpture were grave, they were not categorical, the newspaper said.

Van Gogh 'bridge' to be sold

LONDON (AP) — A painting by Vincent Van Gogh, creator of the world's most expensive picture, "Sunflowers," will be sold in London on June 29, auctioneers Christie's have said. The company said it estimated "the Bridge of Trinquetaille" may fetch at least £8 million (\$13.2 million), which would make it the second-most expensive painting sold at auction, after "Sunflowers." It is being sold by relatives of the late Siegfried Kramarsky, a Dutch collector who bought it in Paris in 1932. The work has been on loan to New York's Metropolitan Museum of Art for the past three years. Van Gogh's yellow "Sunflowers" sold for \$24.75 million (\$39.85 million) to a Japanese insurance company on March 30. The next-highest priced picture was a Paris street scene by Edouard Manet, sold for \$7.7 million (\$11 million) last December. The Van Gogh "bridge" picture, 3 feet (0.9-metre) wide and mostly in blue, was painted in 1888 and depicts an iron bridge over the Rhone River at Arles in southern France.

Student killed, over 100 hurt in Bangladesh clashes

DHAKA (R) — A student was killed and more than 100 people were injured in clashes between police and students in the western Bangladesh town of Kushtia Saturday, officials said Sunday.

They said the trouble started when thousands of students mourning a 12-year-old school-boy killed by a truck set several vehicles ablaze, stoned passers-by and ransacked shops.

Police opened fire after batons and teargas failed to disperse the rampaging demonstrators, Kushtia officials told reporters.

They said one student of a local college was killed by police bullets, and more than 100 people, including 37 policemen, were injured.

Authorities later imposed an indefinite ban on the use of more than five people.

Amnesty praises Sri Lanka for riot prevention

COLOMBO (R) — Amnesty International, the human rights group, has praised Sri Lanka for taking prompt action to prevent rioting after a rebel car bomb killed 113 people in Colombo, the government said Sunday.

In the past Amnesty has frequently criticised Sri Lanka's human rights record and the alleged torture and killing of Tamils by security forces.

A statement said Amnesty sent telegrams to the government expressing its appreciation of how the administration and the people faced with "stoic calm" the aftermath of the bomb. The government has blamed Tamil rebels for the blast.

It also praised measures to prevent a backlash against minority Tamils and to protect Tamil prisoners, the statement said.

The government imposed a curfew on Colombo immediately after the car bomb on April 21. Police and troops took quick action to stop looting or attacks on Tamil shops and homes.

More than 500 Tamils died in July 1983 at the hands of the majority Sinhalese community. The riots broke out after the funeral of 13 soldiers killed by a Tamil guerrilla landmine.

The dead included 50 prisoners attacked in jail by fellow inmates armed with knives and clubs.

Western diplomats viewed the Amnesty action with interest. "They have never done this before," one said, adding that he was curious about the reason for the change in attitude.

GOREN BRIDGE

BY CHARLES GOREN
AND OMAR SEARIF
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DEAR MR. GOREN

Q.—I am a rubber bridge player of the old school. All my life my friends and I have played that all two-bids are forcing to game, and so is a suit response to a two no trump opening bid. A new player in our game insists that neither of these actions is forcing. We have agreed to accept your decision. — J.L., Pompano Beach, Fla.

A.—Both are partly right. All opening two-bids in a suit are forcing either to game or until the opponents are doubled (if you play weak two-bids with two clubs as your strong bid, the same applies to an opening two club bid followed by a rebid in a suit). However, an opening bid of two no trump, whatever your range, is not forcing.

There is a logical reason for this. A demand opening bid in a suit has an unlimited range at the top end. Thus, the opening bidder can have game or even slam in hand, but he might need room to describe a two-suit. There is no way to bid such hands constructively if opener has to worry about the possibility of responder dropping him short of game.

An opening bid of two no trump, however, is a limit bid. Whether your range for such action is 21-23 or 22-24, you need some degree of help from partner if you are to make game. Therefore, partner is free to pass a two no trump open-

ing bid if he has a bust, or near bust if you use the lower range.

The suit response to an opening bid of two no trump presents a different problem. True, if partner opens 2 NT, it might be better to play the hand in three hearts if you have a holding such as:

xxx ♠xxxxx ♠xxx ♠xx

But suppose your hand is:

xxx ♠xx ♠K10xxxx ♠x

Depending on partner's hand, your best contract could be three no trump or a diamond game or slam. If you have to start with a jump to four diamonds to show this hand, you have robbed yourself of a whole level of bidding that could be invaluable to probe for the right spot in which to play the hand.

Since you are far more likely to have a few points on the hand than a bust, it is better to treat a suit response to an opening bid of two no trump as forcing. It is more important to have constructive bidding sequences than to limit a possible loss at a contract of two no trump when you might be able to make exactly three of a suit.

What do you do with the first example given when partner opens two no trump? You have a choice of actions: either pass and let him do the best he can in his no trump partial, or else gamble out four hearts and hope your doubletons and six-card suit will be enough to make game. I prefer the latter option.

ARAB CENTER FOR PHARMACEUTICALS AND CHEMICALS

AFTER a comprehensive discussion of the management committee's report on the company's operations in 1986, the general assembly ordinary session which was held at 12 noon of Thursday April 30, 1987 declared its approval of the report. The general assembly also elected the following shareholders as members of the company's board of directors for the coming four years:

- 1- Mr. Faisal Ibn Khadraa
- 2- Pharmacist Adnan Abdullah Faraj
- 3- Dr. Assad Abdul Rahman
- 4- Dr. Muwaffaq Al Fawwaz Al Zoubi
- 5- Col. Pharmacist Badie Al Qawassmi
- 6- Pharmacist Samih Ali Al Adifi
- 7- Pharmacist Isam Watheq Al Azhari
- 8- Pharmacist Fawzi Fayez Suwwan
- 9- Mr. Radwan Asaan Al Maani
- 10- Mr. Fayez Khaled Qaddoura
- 11- Al Sabel Company for Development and Investment

After the general assembly session the new board of directors held a meeting and elected Mr. Faisal Ibn Khadraa as board chairman, Dr. Assad Abdul Rahman vice president and Pharmacist Adnan Abdullah Faraj as the company's director general.

ARAB CENTER FOR PHARMACEUTICALS AND CHEMICALS

The general assembly in an ordinary session at 10 a.m. on Thursday of April 4, 1987 decided to raise the company's capital from JD 2.4 million to JD 4 million. This decision was taken to help finance the company's new projects in support of the two plants that manufacture hard gelatin capsules and human medicines for external use. It has also been taken for boosting the company's financial and monetary position.

ARAB CENTER FOR PHARMACEUTICALS AND CHEMICALS

After hearing reservations by auditors on the company's 1986 final accounts and after due discussion of these reservations, the general assembly's ordinary meeting held at 12 noon of Thursday, April 30, 1987 decided on the following:

1. approval of the 1986 final accounts as submitted by the management committee in the annual report sent to each shareholder in accordance to norms, plus amendments added to the report by the management committee during the assembly session,
2. expressing reservation about the auditors' reservations on the report and refusing them, and
3. deciding on submitting the two previous decisions to the controller of companies to deal with the two reports in accordance with the law.